

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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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: 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 Office Hours

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

EFA Staff

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Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin

Fields Services Coordinator

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: March 17, 2023

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



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P: 403-250-1197 | Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 | F: 403-291-9216
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 Board of Directors implemented the Director Development Program (DDP) in an effort to engage the membership and stimulate Board succession planning. A Board-appointed registered producer may participate in EFA Board meetings as a non-voting Director, to gain exposure to how the EFA Board operates, and to become more familiar with a number of topics that are critical to the egg industry.

Any farmer interested in applying must submit a letter of interest, explaining why they might like to be an EFA Director. Any potential applicants from a Hutterite Colony must also submit written authorization from their elders, as required. The letter must be submitted to the EFA Board office, to the attention of the Board Manager, by March 1st, 2023.

The EFA Board will review all submitted letters of intent at the first Board meeting following the Board's organizational meeting and may choose to appoint a producer to the DDP for a period of 1 year. If you would like to learn more about the DDP, please contact any of the current EFA Directors or Stephen Scott, EFA's General Manager.

EFA AGM Reminder

EFA hopes for a tremendous turnout of registered Alberta egg farmers, value chain partners, and industry stakeholders, at our 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023. The AGM will be held in-person at the Red Deer Resort (formerly the Cambridge Hotel) in Red Deer, from 9:30 am to 3:15 pm. There will not be a virtual option for joining the AGM this year. The event will conclude with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Following a review of EFA's Annual Report, Egg Farmers of Canada and Farm Products Council of Canada will share updates. The afternoon session will begin with the Producer of the Year announcement. The keynote speaker will be Unstoppable Conversations, who will present 'Resiliency Session: Free to Be and Free to See'. Election results will not be shared at this year's AGM, since both Jerry Hofer and Elie Hofer have been acclaimed to their positions on the EFA Board of Directors.



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AgriStability for poultry farmers: Minister Nate Horner

On February 1 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Nate Horner, issued the following statement on business risk management options for poultry farmers affected by avian influenza:

“In response to the avian influenza outbreak in 2022, the governments of Canada and Alberta have agreed to allow late participation in AgriStability for the 2022 program year. This means any poultry producers not currently signed up for AgriStability can reach out to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to enroll by Feb. 28.

Alberta’s producers have faced significant impacts, substantial losses and a great deal of stress during this time, and that is why we’re providing additional help to some producers. I commend Alberta’s poultry sector for its advocacy and information sharing over the past year to support producers during the avian influenza outbreak.

In recognition of the potential for more infections as we move into spring, I will continue to work with industry to identify any available tools and supports to mitigate avian influenza’s impacts. AgriStability is a margin-based program designed to help producers manage large income declines. Poultry producers interested in late acceptance for the 2022 AgriStability program should contact Agriculture Financial Services Corporation through AFSC Connect or by calling 1-877-899-2372.

Late participants in AgriStability must comply with all program requirements and deadlines. Under the program guidelines, payments to late participants, including any interim payments under the program, are reduced by 20 per cent.”

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).

Communications Update: New EFA Podcast

Did you know, EFA has launched a new consumer podcast titled, *The Cracked Egg!* Guest speakers will be from a variety of sectors including our own egg industry as well as the agriculture, food and health sectors. You can find our podcasts here: www.eggs.ab.ca/podcast.



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Government of Canada Grants

Producers that are looking for grant money might be eligible for either of the grants below:

- The Grow Your Business Online grant gives you up to \$2,400 to set up e-commerce and grow your sales online.
- The Boost Your Business Technology grant gives you up to \$15,000 to get advice on the technologies that can propel your business forward (maybe this grant could be used to increase or improve the data in your layer barn operation).

Both grants have all the information that you need by going on to Canada.ca then the following:

Canada.ca > [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#) > [Programs](#) > [Canada Digital Adoption Program \(CDAP\)](#)

If you scroll down the page, it is easy to determine if you qualify by clicking on the box that says, "Answer a few simple questions to find out". Clickable link [here](#).

Welcome to EFA, Andrea Bieganek!

Please join us in welcoming Andrea to the team as EFA's new Administrative Support Coordinator! She has taken over Brandy's previous role as Brandy moves to the role of Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator. Andrea grew up in the agricultural town of Coaldale and has always had great respect and admiration for local farmers who work tirelessly to put food on the tables of Albertans. Make sure you say hi the next time you are in the office!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 20** | EFA office closed for Family Day
- Feb 23** | Quota Exchange Date
- Feb 28** | EFA AGM
- Feb 28 - Mar 1** | Manitoba Egg Farmers AGM
- Mar 3** | BC Egg AGM
- Mar 7 - 8** | EFNL AGM
- Mar 9 - 10** | EFO AGM
- Mar 15 - 16** | EFNB AGM
- Mar 21** | EFC 50th Anniversary Reception
- Mar 22** | EFC AGM
- Mar 22** | SM4 Annual Reception

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Feb 21 | AI Disposal



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-eggbitess>



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Healthy Farms

2023 Construction planning for your confined feeding operation - A reminder from the NRCB

The start of a new year is a great time to look ahead. If you're planning to build new or expand existing facilities at your confined feeding operation be sure to check with a Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) approval officer before you begin, to find out whether you need a permit.



Do you need a permit to build?

Unauthorized construction at a confined feeding operation is a serious offence under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA). The Act requires operators to obtain a permit before constructing or expanding a manure storage facility or manure collection area at a confined feeding operation. This includes any facility that collects or stores manure, such as barns, liquid manure storage (lagoons), livestock pens, runoff control structures (catch basins), etc. If in doubt, call the NRCB to speak with an approval officer.

Operators who construct or expand a facility without the appropriate permit may be required to depopulate or dismantle the facility and may face prosecution. If you need a permit for your construction project, get your application in as soon as possible. This will help to minimize any delays so you can be ready when the next construction season begins.

Post-construction inspection

After completing permitted construction and before placing livestock or manure in the facility, the permit holder is required to contact the NRCB to schedule and carry out a post-construction inspection. The inspection will assess whether the facility was built according to the terms and conditions of the AOPA permit. If the facility meets these terms and conditions the NRCB will issue a letter allowing use of the facility.

For more information, please contact an approval officer or inspector at the NRCB regional office nearest you, email them at info@nrcb.ca, or check their website at www.nrcb.ca.



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All About Energy Submeters

EFA's PEEP program requests that producers provide annual gas and electricity consumption. This is a challenge for many producers who may not have a sub meter on their layer barn.

A submeter is an electricity meter or gas meter that is installed downstream of the main utility meter to get a more specific understanding of energy consumption. In a farm scenario, these are typically installed to measure consumption directly related to a specific type of production like, in our case, egg production. Energy directed to residences, shops, or anything unrelated to lay production, pullet rearing, or poultry can be excluded. Given they measure the energy flowing to a specific space (ex. lay facility), the information that they collect allows you to see how your equipment is performing over time. Spikes in demand, when not weather related, can indicate a piece of equipment is drawing more energy than typical and that it may need maintenance – this can save you a lot of money in the long run! Do you know how changes in your ventilation settings impact your energy bill and the return on investment of your poultry operation?

There are many kinds of submeters ranging from very basic non-logging meters, to tamper proof meters used for billing purposes, to very complex power analyzing meters that can show you minute by minute spikes in demand. The price range is just as vast with basic meters priced from less than \$100 to \$1,000 (some come with all required attachments while others will need additional current and voltage transformers) to more complex meters going as high as \$6,000.

Even the cheapest of the basic non-logging meters can help you understand your daily, weekly, monthly, or annual barn energy consumption. These units display the current power used or accumulate total power consumption until they are reset. You can reset them to your desired interval or log the number at various intervals as needed (ex. annually, for the purposes of PEEP).

It all comes back to that famous saying, “you can't manage what you don't measure”!

Farm Safety Assessments: WHMIS 2015 - From AgSafe Alberta

At the January regional meetings EFA communicated that, in collaboration with AgSafe, a revised farm safety assessment is being launched in June. We are taking the opportunity to start providing information to help you learn more and even get started working towards completing the requirements.

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This month's safety focus is on WHMIS 2015, which stands for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, which is a global system to classify and label chemicals. All employers are required to develop, implement, and maintain a worker WHMIS education and training program (Note: The OH&S Act defines a work site as a location where a worker is, or is likely to be engaged in any occupation. Farm families are exempt, except if there are non-farming activities taking place it could become a workplace. For the purposes of the EFA Farm Safety assessment, it is considered a best practice).

To support farms and ranches with providing WHMIS 2015 to their workers, AgSafe Alberta has developed an online course and an in-person workshop to help employers provide the education component. We also included optional pesticide and veterinary drugs and medicated feed modules, knowing that these are not specifically covered in WHMIS but can affect worker health in similar ways. We encourage you all to sign up at www.agsafeabseed.ca and take the online course using code EFA2023 to get it for free. If you require an in-person workshop please reach out to us (AgSafe) to see what can be arranged, there is a cost for in-person delivery.

Here are a few of the questions we get at AgSafe Alberta:

Do we need WHMIS 2015 on the farm?

Yes, any workplace in Canada is required to provide education and training if the workplace uses hazardous products.

What is the difference between education and training?

The online course or in-person workshop are considered education. The farm needs to provide the training portion to their workers. This is specific to where they are working and shows them where the products are stored, where the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) can be found, and what the safety procedures are. (AgSafe Alberta is working on a checklist to help you confirm you cover the important information).

But we don't have any chemicals on our farm?

WHMIS applies to cleaning products (bleach, window cleaner, disinfectants), dusts (biological hazards), and even fuel for equipment.

How often do we need to take WHMIS 2015 training or get a refresher?

The education component can be taken every 3 years. On-site training (to your workers) should occur yearly or more frequently if conditions have changed, new products are added, or new hazard information becomes available.

Lastly, take time to check your SDS sheets, pesticide and veterinary labels to make sure you have the ones that match the products that you are using. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to AgSafe Alberta at info@agsafeab.ca and we will be happy to help.



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Healthy Birds

Air and Water Quality Research Studies

Thank you to all the producers at the January regional meetings who stepped forward to participate in the air and water quality and its impact on vaccine efficacy studies. We still need approximately **14** more producer participants.

Please consider signing up or encouraging your peers to participate in this wonderful research opportunity! If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 125.

Avian Encephalomyelitis Vaccine Supply

From Dr. Teryn Girard, Prairie Livestock Veterinarians

Unfortunately, the Tremor Blen® D vaccine (for Avian Encephalomyelitis) has been and continues to be on an extended backorder. The predicted return of this product to the market is May 2023 at the earliest.

However, we do have some new information about a potential substitute vaccine for Avian Encephalomyelitis (AE). There are two potential suitable products that create protection for AE and Pox virus. However, both products are given to birds via a wing web injection. The timing of these vaccines is similar to Tremor Blen®D vaccine and is typically given between 8-15 weeks.

If you are interested in the proper way to give a wing web vaccination, please reach out to your field service technicians or your veterinary team for training.

There has been no scientific testing completed on whether these vaccines can be administered through the drinking water or as a spray. Giving the vaccine in any other manner then stated on the label cannot be confirmed safe for the birds. If you do choose to try this method, it is recommended to perform a titre check to determine whether you have protection against the AE virus.

As more information becomes available, we will be sure to share.



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Regional Meeting Follow-Ups: On Farm Programs

At the January regional meetings, producers heard about changes to record keeping as a result of the redeveloped animal care program and amendments to the start-clean stay-clean program. There were several fantastic questions asked which required follow-up and we would like to share this additional information with all producers.

Q. If producers have different colored lighting in their barn, it may not show as high on a lux meter however, if it is within a certain spectrum or wavelength the birds might still be experiencing a high enough intensity. How will this be handled by the auditors?

A. As noted by producers, different colored lighting (and even different sources) will not register the perceived intensity for the bird on a standard lux meter. Although this is well-recognized in the scientific literature it is generally not considered in discussions of lighting requirements in any animal care guidelines. The DEFRA code (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, UK) acknowledges differences between incandescent and fluorescent but still gives a 10 lux minimum.

The lux meter that EFC auditors will be using (make and model available from EFA) corrects for colour. It measures white, red, green, yellow, and blue LEDs as well as incandescent light sources. EFC auditors did field trials with these units and the feedback was positive. The hope is that it will offer a consistent approach to measuring light intensity. They will be issuing CARs for readings that do not comply with the lighting requirements based on this meter. That said, EFC and EFA will be monitoring audits as the redeveloped ACP rolls out to better understand any problematic areas that might need resolution. We would welcome feedback from any producers following their audit on how assessment of this element is working in the field.

As an aside, some welfare experts have noted concern with colored lighting, especially monochromatic (one colour), as it limits the visual environment for the birds and may make it more difficult for farmers to detect problems during inspection if not adjusted (for example, its harder to see blood under red light). They have also noted there is no good evidence for it reducing feather pecking.

Q. If a producer has two barns drawing from the same well, can they just send the well water for coliform testing or do they need to send two separate samples from each barn? If it is has to be from each barn, can these samples be pooled as one test?

A. All samples must be taken at the production unit. If the test is combined for two barns and the limits are exceeded, further testing would be required or corrective action would need to be taken for both barns.

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Q. If a producer uses municipal water and the municipality can provide a record of coliform testing is that sufficient or is there a requirement to test in the barn?

A. Municipally supplied production units may be awarded equivalency for the annual water test. (This is an exception to the note above that all samples must be taken at the production unit).

Q. The SC-SC program requires a letter of assurance from bedding material suppliers to mitigate the risk of contamination from inputs. The Code of Practice requires that bedding must not be harmful or toxic to birds. If a producer's supplier isn't willing or able to provide this (one example is they are treating wood for pine beetles) what options are available?

A. Some farmers are getting shavings from the dairy or hog barn storage shed on the farm which would be preferred to using straw from the field that could be an AI risk.

We have reached out to EFC to find out if an invoice stating that its untreated wood shavings could be acceptable in the above circumstances or in the case that a supplier is not willing to write a letter guaranteeing all supply as free from toxic substances.

We have also inquired with EFC whether there is any opportunity for an approach similar to organic where there is an exemption if a producer can document efforts and that it is not available or alternatively, whether there is there more detailed guidance on what sorts of "treatments" might be acceptable/unacceptable if the supplier is not willing to take on the onus of validating whether what they use is toxic to birds or not. We have asked for any examples circulating of letters producers have been able to receive to satisfy this requirement.

When we receive a reply, we will provide further updates.

Update on Timelines for Implementation of the Pullet Animal Care Program (ACP)

We have recently been provided with new information on timelines for the development and implementation of the Pullet ACP.

The anticipated timeline for EFC approval of a preliminary pullet measuring protocol is March of this year. When it is circulated to the provinces, we will begin measuring systems. These will not be official measurements. During piloting of the pullet measuring protocol throughout 2023 we will be gathering up a list of challenges and uncertainties. A list of limiting factors and measuring challenges will go to the Pullet Animal Care Program Development Team for consideration in 2024. Once these are resolved and the protocol is final, we will be providing pullet growers with their official measurements.

The Animal Care Program Development Team for pullets will be meeting in 2024 to finalize the program with a tentative or targeted timeline of roll out in 2025. As previously noted, a Code Review was initiated in December 2022. The goal is to complete the Code review in 2024 so that the outcomes of that can be included in a 2025 implementation of the Pullet ACP.



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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

Meller Pullet Cage for Sale!

- 156 cages with 21 pullets per cage
- Great condition

If interested, please contact Jonty from Grandview at gvcologyjonty@gmail.com or call him at 780-532-6587

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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Healthy Communities

Alberta Open Farm Days

EFA is calling on registered egg farmers to consider participating in Alberta Open Farm Days 2023, which is scheduled for **August 19th & 20th**. Early host farm registration is now open, and farmers can choose which day(s) they want to participate.

Alberta Open Farm Days is a province-wide open house. This unique weekend event is intended to bring Albertans together through educational and experiential agricultural-based initiatives to learn more about where local food comes from and how it was produced. The goal is to showcase Alberta's agriculture and tourism industry in a fun, engaging and meaningful manner, to Albertans.

The deadline for host farms to register is April 30th, 2023. All host farm registrations for Alberta Open Farm Days are done through the event website, which is also where interested farmers can find more information: <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/registration/>.

This is a great opportunity to share your farm's story and help highlight our industry to consumers!



PRESENTED BY 



Egg Joke

Why don't eggs tell jokes?
They'd crack each other up!



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Marketing Highlights

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

Calgary Hitmen Game Activation



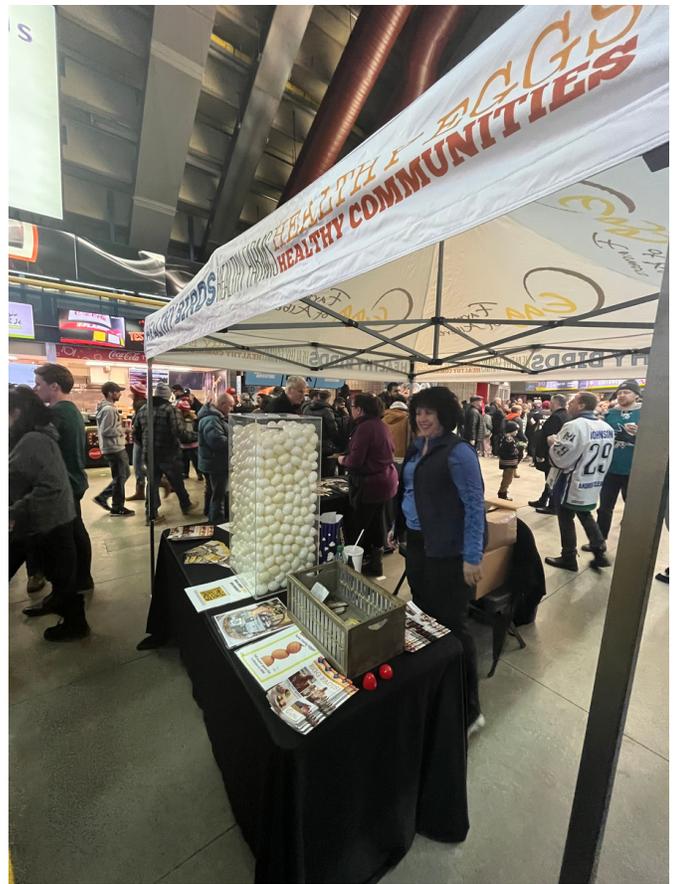
As part of our partnership, EFA had a booth on the concourse at the game on February 1st vs the Regina Pats. The booth was very busy as the Saddledome had a sellout crowd, which resulted in lots of good interactions and caused our egg guessing contest to be very popular! Our next concourse booth will be at the game on February 25th.



Canadian Agriculture Day



Celebrated on Feb 15th.
Thank you, Alberta egg farmers!



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