

# 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

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 Fields Services Coordinator

▶ **EFA Office Hours** ◀  
 Regular Office Hours  
 August 1 - Heritage 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](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca)

Next Issue: August 12, 2022

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

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank their fellow egg farmers and industry partners for a great turnout at the recently completed round of regional producer meetings in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge. Excluding the Board and staff, a total of 165 people attended the meetings (98 producer units), including 21 people who joined via Zoom during the Calgary meeting. The meeting presentation and a recording of the Calgary meeting are available on the producer website (Information Center / Producer Meetings).

The EFA Board and staff appreciated the excellent engagement and high-quality discussion around several critical issues. All feedback and suggestions will be taken into consideration. EFA will also publish documents to the producer website (along with the meeting presentation & recording) to provide answers to the outstanding questions coming from the closed producer-only sessions.

It has now been over a month since the last case of Avian Influenza (AI) was confirmed in the province on June 2nd. EFA continues to work closely with the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIEMT) to help impacted farmers work through the process with the CFIA. The APIEMT will be conducting a 'lessons learned' session to review the Alberta response to AI, while monitoring AI activity ahead of the fall wild bird migration. Further AI updates will be shared as needed.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 21 & 22**, Board Meeting at EFA Board Office  
**July 27**, Production Management Committee Meeting at EFA Board Office  
**August 1**, Heritage Day - Office Closed



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# Healthy Birds



## ➤ Infectious Laryngotracheitis Virus

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) is a highly contagious respiratory disease that impacts all species of poultry. Like Avian Influenza, ILT is a reportable disease. It is the producer's responsibility to make sure their PID information with Alberta Agriculture is up to date to allow them to receive notifications when there has been an ILT detection nearby.

At the last research committee meeting, members learned about how vaccinating using the chicken embryo origin (CEO) vaccine has caused outbreaks of ILT due to recombination with other ILT strains, particularly the wildtype strains. The current practice is to use tissue culture origin (TCO) vaccines for treatment or prevention in high-risk backyard flocks. However, unless faced with an outbreak, researchers are not recommending the use of these live attenuated vaccines (CEO or TCO) on commercial flocks due to their potential for reversion and recombination. Producers have the option of using recombinant vaccines at the hatchery level to provide some additional protection against ILT and eliminate the chance of reversion and recombination. However, the lab cannot differentiate between ILT strains attributed to vaccination vs. naturally occurring. Thus, the best method of protect remains good biosecurity.

Did you know that ILT can remain viable in carcasses (including feathers) and manure? Proper disposal (burial, incineration, composting) assists in preventing ILT spread. Producers should avoid spreading non-composted manure on the land and prevent scavenging of carcasses and compost piles by domestic animals (ex: dogs) and wildlife.

## ➤ Enhanced Biosecurity Measures for AI Risk Mitigation

At the June Regional meetings producers shared what they have been doing on their farms to increase their biosecurity and reduce the risk of AI transmission and infection. For your reference, we have compiled a list of all the egg-cellent advice and suggestions from producers at all meetings:

- Pretend it is outside your doorstep every day
- Heat treated feed
- Spray boots, change footwear before Danish entry. 3 changes of footwear before getting to the birds
- Consider plenum ventilation
- No personal vehicles on farm
- Disinfect boots before barn entry
- Equipment is washed more frequently

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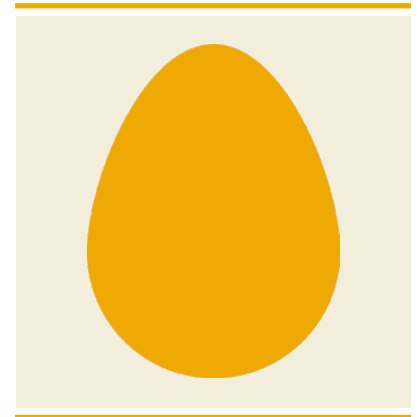


- Move compost/manure pile away from barn in early spring before migratory birds arrive
- Reducing traffic in the barn
- Boot changes increased
- Less traveling from farm to farm
- Barn locked
- Foot baths at doors and zones, new boots and coveralls, changing coveralls
- Making everyone on farm aware
- Changed air intake structure, air through p-trap
- Danish entrance at every barn entry
- Chemicals to treat water
- Consider cooler biosecurity: Full disinfect after each egg pickup
- Do manure twice a week, one load at a time to disinfect tires, different person in truck and inside barn
- 1 time a week manure clean out, less trips out, trailer is cleaned and disinfected before parking
- Farm gate sales at end of driveway, load eggs yourself. Don't let outside people out of their vehicle

## Healthy Eggs

### ► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to June 18th, which is period 6 for 2022. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.0 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 2.3% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending May 21st), and a 3.3% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2021.



Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 7.1% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.5 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the smallest sales decline; a 6.3% decrease over the previous 52 weeks, to 34.8 million dozen eggs (85.9% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every four weeks is available on the producer website.



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## ➤ Salmonella Vaccinations

Salmonella vaccinations helps to reduce infections in individual birds, reduce the number of positive flocks, and helps minimize the amount of Salmonella shed into the environment. Both killed and modified-live vaccines are highly beneficial to bird health. Killed vaccines introduce circulating antibodies that are effective in helping reduce transmission of disease and provide serotype-specific immunity. Whereas modified-live vaccines are fast acting for quick protection and to help build immunity at a young age and can provide cross protection within serogroups. Salmonella vaccination programs can consist of either killed, modified-live, or a combination depending on your flocks needs.

Using killed vaccines only will:

- Be best suited for SE-positive layer complexes
- Complement other control measure on high risk layer farms
- Allow killed Salmonella vaccine to be administered at the same time as other killed vaccines

Using modified-live vaccines only will:

- Be suitable for SE-negative pullet/layer farms
- Complement other control measures on low risk farms
- Involve the 3-3-3 Rule of thumb (vaccinate at 3 days, 3 weeks, and 3 months)

Using a combination of killed and modified live vaccines will:

- Offer the most complete program
- Provide maximum risk reduction
- Provide earlier protection for pullets
- Modified-live vaccines can help enhance vaccine response

At the last meeting, the Production Management Committee discussed the importance of providing two doses of Salmonella vaccines for best results and protection. At the hatchery producers are provided the option to have their chicks vaccinated using a modified-live spray vaccine for Salmonella Typhimurium. The theory is that the gut becomes full of other bacteria and Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) doesn't have a place to live. Following up with a killed vaccine that is specific to SE assists in providing antibodies to protect against SE. The PMC recognized the challenges associated with conducting killed injections for the second dose even if it provides the best protection, however if producers are vaccinating their flocks for Bronchitis and Newcastle, Salmonella vaccines can be done at the same time using a double barreled needle or 3-way vaccine.

For more information on various Salmonella vaccination options and their pros and cons please see the one pager resource on the producer portal at:  
<https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/learning-portal/learning-home>



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## ➤ Start Clean - Stay Clean® Program Clarifications

The EFC Production Management Committee has recently made some clarifications in regard to the following Start Clean-Stay Clean® program requirements and how they are audited:

### 1. Adjacent Production Units

The Start Clean - Stay Clean® program requires that only one kind of poultry is maintained on the farm. If more than one kind of poultry is maintained on the farm, equivalency points may be awarded provided that:

- Production units are independent structures:
  - o Production units are not connected, and do not have shared walls, hallways, or roof.
  - o Production units have independent feeding, watering, manure removal, and ventilation systems.
  - o The direction of air exhaust does not flow into air intakes of the egg or pullet production unit.
- Each production unit has its own staff or staff must change outerwear and footwear between production units.

The SC-SC™ Farmer Guidelines outline that new construction/major renovations on new or existing footprints must ensure production units are not adjacent (ie: the minimum distance of separation between barns must be equivalent to the height of the taller building from ground to gable multiplied by 10). The EFC PMC has clarified that all farms will be audited to the independent structure requirements, regardless of when the barn was built and/or renovated. If the structures are independent, and the requirements listed within the element are met, the production units do not have to meet the minimum distance of separation to receive a pass for the element.

It is highly recommended that the minimum distance of separation be met.

### 2. Dry-Clean SE Test

The Start Clean-Stay Clean® programs require that, should a farmer choose to dry-clean, the facility must be swab tested for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) by a qualified third party 8 weeks prior to repopulation. This dry-clean SE test can be combined with the routine SE test in the previous flock as per the National SE Protocol.

The EFC PMC has clarified that the dry-clean SE test must be conducted a maximum of 8 weeks prior to the repopulation date. The dry-clean test **may** be conducted closer to the repopulation date provided that there is sufficient time to receive the test results and, if necessary, plan for a full wet-wash and disinfection.



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## ➤ **Enhanced Biosecurity - Disinfectant in the Cooler**

Given the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Canada, all farms across the country have been encouraged to practice enhanced biosecurity measures. This may include biosecurity measures in place for egg pick-up, including disinfecting the wheels of trolleys and/or the cooler floor after the eggs are collected. EFC has advised that although the storage of chemical and other substances in the cooler is prohibited under the Start Clean-Stay Clean® program, disinfectant sprays for the above purpose may be kept in cooler in the form of a mixed solution in a leak proof container. Please also note that on-farm auditors are aware of this acceptable practice.

# Healthy Farms

## ➤ **Producer Reported Occurrence, Farm Safety (From AgSafe Alberta, Jody Wacowich)**

AgSafe Alberta received a report from a producer who has employees and Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) – Alberta coverage. The producer made a report to WCB within the 72-hour reporting period as they are required to do. Sometime later, Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) contacted the farm via email stating that it appeared the farm may have experienced a Potentially Serious Incident (PSI).



What many do not realize is that the OHS Potentially Serious Incidents Surveillance Program regularly reviews alternative sources of information (this includes WCB data amongst others) to confirm the types and volumes of PSIs that are being reported to OHS. For more information on why and how this happens, refer to the Alberta Government Potentially Serious Incidents Surveillance Program Guide: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/73d8f002-4676-4721-a87f-d71df827c90a/resource/91639bb7-b2ee-4aa9-83ae-b17d86526efc/download/lbr-potentially-serious-incidents-surveillance-program-guide-2021.pdf>

### When to report a PSI

While it is not made terribly clear, according to the Alberta Government, an incident should be reported as a PSI if:

- The incident had a likelihood of causing a serious injury or illness; or
- If there is reasonable cause to believe that corrective action may need to be taken to prevent it from happening again.

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PSIs are also not limited to incidents involving workers. Even if an incident did not involve a worker, but it potentially could have involved a worker, it should still be reported as a PSI to Alberta OHS.

### What to expect

The Potentially Serious Incidents Surveillance Program has opened the door for more contact with and monitoring of employers, as well as for more OHS inspections of worksites. It is important not to ignore this program, as both not reporting any PSIs or reporting several PSIs can bring your operation to the attention of Alberta OHS and possibly initiate an inspection.

### What you can do

AgSafe Alberta recommends reviewing the information contained in links below, as well as reaching out to us at [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca) with questions that you may have.

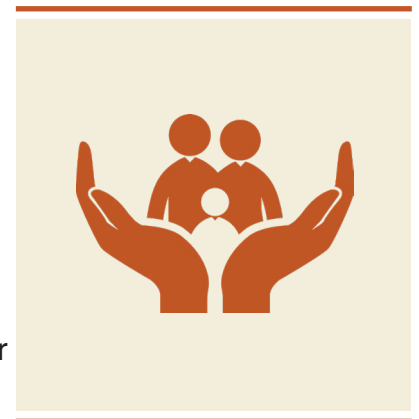
**Government of Alberta Potentially Serious Incident Reporting:** <https://open.alberta.ca/data-set/148d3812-21f5-4385-8c98-f76a3c3fdb21/resource/28167fa4-ffa-41ad-aec9-1bf9f091e186/download/lbr-potentially-serious-incident-reporting-legislation-updates-2021-12.pdf#:~:text=Section%2033%285%29%20of%20the%20OHS%20Actgives%20the%20two,may%20need%20to%20be%20taken%20to%20prevent%20recurrence.>

**Alberta Government PSI Webinar:** <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/vid002>

## Healthy Communities

### ► Canadian Poultry Top 4 Under 40

Congratulations to Conrad Vanessen, an Alberta egg farmer and EFA's current Vice Chair, for being named one of Canadian Poultry's Top 4 Under 40! This program, running for the second consecutive year, recognizes young poultry farmers who are leaders and innovators in their industry. Conrad will be featured in an upcoming issue of Canadian Poultry, where they will dig deeper into his passion for egg farming, and his commitment to building a sustainable egg industry in Alberta and across Canada.



EFA would also like to congratulate Dr. Teryn Girard, a veterinarian from Red Deer. In addition to working with EFA and Alberta egg farmers, she has also been a tremendous spokesperson and integral part of the APIEMT throughout the ongoing outbreak of AI in Alberta.

You can read more about the Top 4 Under 40 program in Canadian Poultry magazine and on their website: <https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com/canadian-poultry-names-this-years-top-4-under-40-honourees/>



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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 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 sharing the benefits of Lutein found in eggs to protect against early heart disease. This month, we will also be sharing colourful recipes that are eggspectional and hearty, such as a vegetable fritata. For the farming theme, we are highlighting the fact that supply management has been supplying Canadians with safe, fresh and locally produced eggs for over 40 years. Here's what you can expect to see on social:

