

EggNotes

Board of Director

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Vice Chair: Susan Schafers
780-722-3238

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser
403-653-4480

Director: John Hofer
403-641-2030

Director: Peter Waldner
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Director: Bernadette Vandeborn
780-349-6311

EFA Staff

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ext: 124

Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
ext: 126

Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
ext: 103

Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
ext: 125

Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
ext: 129

Office Manager: Laurel Martin
ext: 121

Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
ext: 101

Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
ext: 127

Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132

Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
ext: 128

Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow
ext: 105

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

Office will be closed Monday, July 2 for
Canada Day

Egg Price Update

Effective May 27, 2018

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.20	↑
A	Large	2.20	↑
A	Medium	1.970	↑
A	Small	1.600	↑
A	Nest Run	2.073	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.270	-
B		0.750	-
C		0.150	-

Note: From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010, and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of

Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:

info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: July 13, 2018

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website (both full issue PDF and blog posts) or EFA's producer website



EFA Board Update

EFC Summer Conference: July 9 - July 11, 2018

Egg Farmers of Alberta is proud to host egg farmers from around the county this year for EFC's Summer Meeting from July 8-11 in Calgary. The Board of Directors are extending an invitation for all Alberta egg producers to join us for the entire conference, but in particular the producer meeting which is on Monday, July 9.

We encourage our farmers to take part in the Producer Conference while it is in our own province, it will be an informative, engaging day that you can share with other egg farmers from across the country! Here are some further details about the day:

Monday, July 9, 2018 - \$85.00 per person, lunch included
Located at the Westin Hotel, Calgary

9:00 am - Bridging the gap between consumers & farmers

- Kim McConnell: Advancing Public Trust
- Roger Pelissero: Egg Quality Assurance
- Nathan Pelletier: Sustainable Intensification Strategies
- Paul Wipf: History of the Hutterites
- Trade update from the Government of Canada

1:30 pm - Facilitated Egg Industry Stakeholder Panel Discussion

3:00 pm - Adjournment

Please call the EFA office to register for the Producer Conference or other Summer Conference events.



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Stampede Shift Reminder for Egg Ambassadors

For those of your interested in working a shift at the Calgary Stampede, please email Angie at angie.lang@eggs.ab.ca or call the office (ext 103)

Shifts are filling up quickly, but there are still some that need to be filled. This is a great opportunity to engage with the public and share your knowledge of the Alberta egg industry!



EFA's 50 Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars so that you can join EFA in celebrating our 50th Anniversary!

The event will be held Wednesday, **August 29, 2018 from 11:00am to 3:00pm** at the Wild Wild West Event Centre in Calgary. There will be lunch, entertainment and games! Each registered farm is welcome to bring 2 people to this event at no cost.

Invitations will be going out soon – watch your mailboxes!



Healthy Farms



PEEP Update

We are nearly half way through the year and EFA's field staff have been busy reviewing PEEP with farmers: 147 assessments have already been completed to date! The following statistics may be of interest to you:

- 20/147 farmers scored greater than 90% - congratulations!
- The average score is approximately 76%
- 88% of farmers are passing PEEP

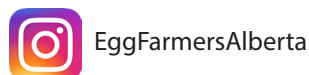
In 2018, a new question was added related to cooler fans and motors. To date, 7 producers have scored full points on the question, while most producers (107) have scored 0 points. EFA will be reviewing feedback on the new question with the Production Management Committee prior to 2019 reassessments.

Support for refrigeration and cooling equipment upgrades (retrofits only) is available through the Farm Energy and Agri-Processing (FEAP) program at a 50% cost share level. For more information please call 310-FARM.

Summer Farm Employment Program

Would you like to hire extra help for the farm this summer? The Summer Farm Employment Program provides up to \$500.00 of wage support per month to farmers who hire young people to work on the farm. To qualify you must be a full time farmer and employees must be between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age and can't be a direct relative of the employer. Wage support is based on full time employment from July 1 to August 31.

This program is funded and administered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Employees and employers must apply together for the program, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry does not do any matching. For more information, or to apply please visit <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv35>



Events that Engage!

We are busy and diving right into our events season here at EFA! Did you know that we do four major events all before the Calgary Stampede? Going out into the community is a great way to interact and engage with new consumers about the egg industry. We often have returning visitors to our booth who come just to stop by because they recognize a farmer or even one of our contractors.



A huge draw to our booth, other than it's amazing curb appeal, is the hens. Whenever there are live animals at an event, it increases the engagement tenfold. All of a sudden talking about the industry and different concerns with consumers doesn't seem so pushy when you are feeding and petting a hen. Those girls really know how to bring a crowd in.

We attended Easter Extravaganza at the Calgary Zoo to kick off the season, Aggie Days Calgary, Aggie Days Lethbridge and Amazing Ag in Edmonton.

To learn more about the events, head to our website:
eggs.ab.ca/efa-blog/events-that-engage/

Upcoming Events

Regional Meetings: Registration and coffee will be at 9:00 a.m. with all meetings starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending approx 4:00 p.m. Meetings will be held at the following locations:

June 12 – Calgary Regional Meeting (Acclaim Hotel)

June 13 - Grand Prairie Regional Meeting (Pomeroy Hotel)

June 14 - Leduc Regional Meeting (Royal Executive Inn)

June 19 & 20- Lethbridge Regional Meeting (Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and Conference Center)

June 27 - EFA Board Meeting (Calgary Office)

July 8 - 11 - EFC Summer Conference (The Westin, Calgary)



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Green Certificate Program for Poultry has been Launched!

Egg Farmers is thrilled that a Green Certificate Program in Poultry is now available! In 2015, our Industry Development Officer, Jenna Griffin, spearheaded the development of this program with the goal of educating more young people about the egg industry and increasing the number of knowledgeable people that could be accessed to work on egg farms. The curriculum was developed by Frank Robinson and is now ready to be taught to high school students across Alberta with the help of knowledgeable farmers in our industry.



If you know a high school student who is interested in the egg industry, or if you are interested in helping educate the next generation of farm employees, we encourage you to contact the Green Certificate Coordinator.

Below is a note from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry about the program and how to become involved!

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry works in partnership with the agriculture industry and Alberta Education (via the off campus education policy) to offer the Green Certificate Program to Alberta-based high school students.

Green Certificate is an agriculture training program that focuses on workforce development in the primary production sector. It is currently in 300 Alberta communities and averages 1,300 to 1,500 active registrations at any given time. The agriculture primary production sector provides approximately 200 testers (agriculture professionals and owner/operators) to assess the competencies of Green Certificate trainees.

Trainees select a specialization, and under the guidance of their trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program. “There are 11 ag-production, technician-level, focused specializations offered,” says Green Certificate coordinator Raelene Mercer, “including our newest specialty, poultry.”

The Poultry Technician certificate will allow students to develop and demonstrate their skills in areas such as bird biology, animal welfare, safety and employability skills. They will also learn poultry nutritional and handling requirements and poultry barn environmental systems. Within the Poultry Technician certificate there are specializations available, which are

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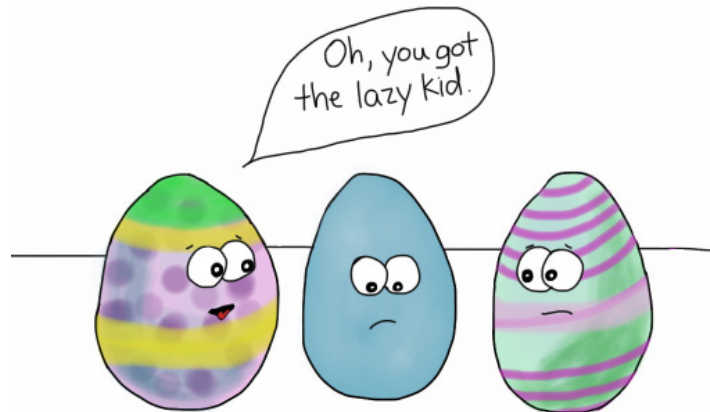


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broiler Chicken, Hatching Egg, Table Egg and Turkey. In addition to the skills above, “the Table Egg specialization focuses on learning table egg production, how to prepare birds and facility for bird ship out, as well as maintaining the facility,” says Mercer.



If you are interested in viewing the curriculum or would like to become a tester, please contact Raelene Mercer at 780-968-3551 or raelene.mercer@gov.ab.ca.



Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far in 2018:



- 152 PEEP evaluations have been completed in 2018
 - Average score: 76.16%
- 39 SC-SC Layer evaluations have been completed so far in 2018
 - Alberta's average score: 99.82%
 - 30 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 52 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2018
 - Alberta's average score: 99.98%
 - 49 facilities have received a rating of 100%
- 25 SC-SC Pullet evaluations have been completed in 2018
 - Alberta's average score: 99.74%
 - 20 Alberta Pullet Growers have scored a perfect 100% rating
 - 9 pullet growers are newly accredited in the SC-SC Pullet program!

Keep in mind that as of January 2019 it will be a mandatory for all egg farmers to purchase their pullets from a pullet grower that is accredited in the SC-SC Pullet Program. There are only 5 pullet growers that need to achieve their first pullet accreditation, and 25 farms that are scheduled to renew their accreditation this year. We are getting very close to our goal of 100% of Alberta's pullet growers being accredited.

SC-SC Tip! The EFC Field Inspectors have noticed that as the temperatures have risen in Alberta this spring, some cooler temperatures have been a little below the 10°C threshold.

When there are big shifts in temperature outside, it's a good idea to check that the temperatures in your cooler are being maintained between 10 and 13°C. If temperatures are falling below this range, you may need to adjust the set point of the cooler thermometer up by a degree or two. Be sure to watch your cooler temperatures closely after you make an adjustment to ensure they've had the effect you anticipated. Maintaining your cooler temperatures between 10 and 13°C is a Critical Control Element in your Start Clean – Stay Clean Layer Program.

EFA can't say it enough, but Thank-you to farmers for your commitment and hard work each and every day to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.



Healthy Eggs

Focus on Egg Quality - Haugh Units

The Haugh unit (pronounced “how”) is a measure of internal egg quality. Developed by Raymond Haugh in 1937, the Haugh unit is a measure of egg protein based on the height of its egg white (albumen) and the weight of the egg.



For this test, an egg is weighed, then broken onto a flat surface and a micrometer is used to determine the height of the egg white immediately surrounding the yolk. The height, together with the weight determines the Haugh Unit (HU) rating which ranges between 0 and 130. The higher the number, the better the quality of the egg as fresher, higher quality eggs have thicker whites. Eggs with a Haugh unit above 67 are considered Grade A.

Grading stations often test Haugh units to assess egg quality and shelf life. If there is an issue identified by measuring the Haugh unit, the grader will often work with the farmer directly to address it.

Factors that can influence egg white quality, and therefore the Haugh unit measurement include:

- The age of the bird
- The breed of bird
- How quickly eggs are collected and placed in the cooler following lay
- How long the eggs have been stored. Over a 10 week period there is a significant change in Haugh unit, with average values decreasing by almost 15%.

It has been found that Haugh units have not been greatly impacted by bird nutrition, the barn environment or hen housing.