

# EggNotes

## Board of Directors

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**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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Dave Lastiwka  
 Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin  
 Fields Services Coordinator

▶ **EFA Office Hours** ◀  
 Regular Office Hours  
 July 1 - Canada 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)

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



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# Board Update

## ▶ Alberta Avian Influenza (AI) Update

EFA would like to thank the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Chief Provincial Veterinarian's office with Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, and our industry partners, for their ongoing efforts to manage the Avian Influenza (AI) in our province. The hard work and long hours put in by Alberta's labs and poultry veterinarians is definitely appreciated by everyone in the poultry industry.

The reporting of new cases has slowed recently, thanks to the due diligence of farmers and industry stakeholders visiting farms. Effective biosecurity protocols have been important to help prevent further spread of AI in Alberta. At the time of publication, there have been 31 confirmed cases of AI in the province, including 18 commercial poultry farms.

## ▶ Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors is pleased to announce Stephen Scott as our General Manager. Holding a Bachelor and Master of Science both from the University of Guelph, Stephen has been the Executive Director of the Canadian Hereford Association since 2013. In this capacity, he has worked alongside producers, provincial associations, processors, research organizations (private and university), national and provincial beef associations, other breed organizations, and government funders. His first official day with EFA will be June 20, 2022, when he will begin to work closely with Susan Gal on transitioning the leadership of the organization until her retirement towards the end of August.

The Board is grateful to Susan for her leadership and for the many accomplishments of the organization during her tenure as General Manager. As a result, EFA is well positioned for the upcoming period of opportunity, innovation, and strategic growth. Please join us in providing a warm welcome to Stephen later this month!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 21**, Calgary Regional Meeting (Winston Golf Club)

**June 22**, Grande Prairie Regional Meeting (Pomeroy Hotel, 11633 100th Street, Grande Prairie)

**June 23**, Edmonton Regional Meeting (Holiday Inn Conference Centre, 4485 Gateway Blvd, Edmonton)

**June 28**, Lethbridge Regional Meeting (Lethbridge Lodge, 320 Scenic Drive, Lethbridge)

**June 29**, Lethbridge Regional Meeting (Lethbridge Lodge, 320 Scenic Drive, Lethbridge)

**July 1**, Canada Day - Office Closed

**July 7**, QE3-2022 - Sales Deadline

**July 11-13**, EFC Producer Conference and Board Meeting

**July 14**, QE3-2022 - Red/Green Notification

**July 21 & 22**, EFA Board Meeting

**July 27**, Production Management Committee Meeting



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# Healthy Birds



## ► Update on Launch of Revised Animal Care Program

As you know, the EFC Board of Directors approved Stage 1 of the Redeveloped Animal Care Program in November 2021. As a reminder, Stage 1 of the redeveloped ACP includes all relevant laying hen requirements except for accessible feed space provided per hen. How to assess the feeder space requirements in the redeveloped ACP is under revision, and the feeder space requirements will be added to the final Stage 2 redeveloped ACP at a later date. As an update on Stage 2 of the redeveloped ACP, it has been finalized by the ACP redevelopment project team and will be presented to the EFC Board of Directors in July 2022.

The program has an 18-month mandatory implementation and a 12-month voluntary implementation. This means that all Stage 1 requirements will be in effect as of May 10th, 2023. Farmers that would normally be scheduled for an audit between November 10th, 2022 - May 10th, 2023 will have the opportunity to be audited on the new program if they choose.

**The full audit for Stage 1 of the program is now posted on the Producer Portal on the Farm Programs page under “Resource and Policies”.** EFC is also developing a farmer manual for the program, which is targeted to be available later this summer.

In late April, EFA's Production Management Committee reviewed the assessment to determine what changes might be needed to existing record keeping and policies. We are working on a few other items related to preparedness:

- Hosting a webinar in the fall to provide an overview of the changes and to give producers the opportunity to get any questions answered. Stay tuned for more details!
- Developing an audit readiness checklist so producers can confirm if they are a good candidate to undergo an audit under the new program during the voluntary implementation phase. In the coming months this will be provided to all producers with special notice to those who have an audit regularly scheduled during November-May. Participating will provide producers valuable feedback on their operation leading up to the mandatory period.

## ► Quota Leasing Pool Fee

The lease fee will increase from \$8.00 to \$8.50 for the 2023/2024 pool.



## ➤ EFA Funded Research Project Factsheets

Posted on the producer portal are two new factsheets from EFA's funded research projects. The first factsheet is on a study of beak blunting in laying hens using a modified feeder. The second factsheet is on information regarding Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in backyard poultry and what it means for the commercial poultry industry.

Did you know that feed motivation may play a role in the success of blunting beaks with modified feeders? Or how about that live attenuated ILT vaccinations are not recommended for commercial poultry flocks? Find out the reasons why by visiting the producer portal at <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/learning-portal/research-and-outcomes>

## Healthy Farms

### ➤ From Your PMC

At our meeting on April 25th the PMC discussed the postponement of the April 11 webinar on the 'Future of PEEP' and how to proceed. There is a Board commitment through the Sustainability Strategy to transform PEEP into an outcome/data-based program. As an industry, we need to be able to report on if we are improving our environmental performance, without being prescriptive to farmers about how we get there.



The EFA pledge is that we will enhance on farm data collection so that farmers can monitor and improve farm sustainability performance while preparing for expanded commercial requirements related to sustainability. We would really like to work with producers on doing this the right way so that everyone is bought in and working together. We have an idea from EFC's NEST tool and previous Life Cycle Analysis studies about what data points really drive environmental performance but how can we collect the data in a way that will work for you and provides you value? How do we move from our current very specific scoring framework to a new way of doing things without losing momentum and progress – it was just last year we celebrated 100% of producers passing PEEP!

It was determined to consult with producers about this at the regional meetings. Prior to the regional meeting you will be provided a package with registration. This will include information that will be presented about PEEP at the meeting, as well as some questions that will be posed. Please take the time to review this and consider your responses in advance. The better feedback we can provide as producers the stronger the revised program will be and the more applicable it will be to our farms.



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## ➤ **Near Misses (From AgSafe Alberta, Jody Wacowich)**

I often start my presentations with some questions about what people in the room are doing for safety. One of the questions I ask is if anyone has had a near miss on the farm? The response I get to this question is often very few hands raised. Then I rephrase the question a little. Have you had a moment on the farm where something happened, and no one was hurt, but your heart was pumping a little faster for a minute or two? This often gets many more hands raised. Just to be clear, a near miss is an incident when no property was damaged and no one was hurt, but a slight shift in time or position would have meant damage or injury.

So what do near misses look like on your farm?

A cable snaps just as you exit the room in the barn. Driving the tractor down the road and a rock hits the window and leaves a large mark. Did you have to hit stop on a conveyor or piece of equipment to prevent damage or an injury? Have you experienced a micro-sleep while driving or operating equipment? (A micro-sleep is an episode of sleep lasting less than 30 seconds).

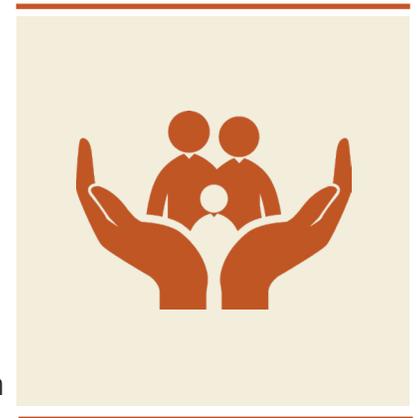
When a near miss happens, write it down (EFA has provided you with some handy forms for this). Use it at your next safety meeting to talk to your team. What can be done to prevent it or something worse from happening again? Also, sit down at the end of the year and look at your near misses, can you find trends in them and your incidents? Are these covered in your hazard assessments and controls or do you need to revise or create a new one?

Safety is about risk management, take some time to review and put procedures and controls in place to reduce the near misses (risks) and it will help to reduce your chances of something more significant happening on your farm.

## Healthy Communities

### ➤ **You are Invited to the Canadian Poultry Research Forum 2022**

The Poultry Innovation Partnership is excited to bring back the Canadian Poultry Research Forum as part of the Canadian Poultry Science Network after a successful first event last year. As a reminder, this initiative arose from the annual Prairie Poultry Meetings which had historically brought together researchers and their graduate level poultry science students from the three Western provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba) to present their planned and completed research projects. The meeting has since expanded to include researchers and students from across Canada.



The meeting is scheduled for June 14-16, 2022 and is a virtual event. The virtual meeting platform will allow attendees to easily interact, provide feedback and ask questions. An invitation has been extended to industry partners and producers to attend the Canadian Poultry Research Forum and learn about the cutting-edge research that is happening across Canada.

To register please visit <https://pheedloop.com/EVESFNIJNDWHS/site/home/>

## ▶ **Quarter Two Research Report Update 2022**

The quarter two research update is available on the producer portal.

Since the quarter one research report the following researchers have concluded their studies:

- Understanding the effects of beak blunting and its potential to be used as an alternative to current beak treatment methods – Researcher Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner (University of Saskatchewan)
- Characterization of infectious laryngotracheitis virus circulating in backyard flocks, determining the transmission potential to commercial poultry – Researcher Dr. Faizal Careem (University of Alberta)

The following researchers have provided interim information on their studies:

- Use of 3D kinematic, QCT, infrared, and genomic to evaluate perching in commercial strains of enriched-housed laying hens – Researcher Dr. Clover Bench (University of Alberta).
- Vaccine - Mediated Control of Shell-less Egg Syndrome (SES) Caused by a Variant Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV) in Western Canada – Researcher Dr. Faizal Careem (University of Calgary).
- Effect of LED flicker on pullet welfare, health, and production and further impacts on hen performance, egg production, and egg quality – Researcher Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner (University of Saskatchewan).

Lastly, the following research project has been contracted to begin:

- Investigation of Procedures and Water Quality Impacting Vaccine Effectiveness in Egg Layers in Alberta – Researcher Dr. Faizal Careem (University of Calgary).

To get the updated information on these research projects, visit the producer portal at <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/learning-portal/research-and-outcomes>



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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 [adelina.banaj@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:adelina.banaj@eggs.ab.ca) or call 587-391-6122.

## ► **Monthly Social Highlights**

Continuing with our 3 main overarching themes year-round, we are sharing a variety of content this month. We are highlighting eggs as one of nature's most nutrient-dense foods that is packed with protein, vitamins and minerals. We will also be sharing a savoury breakfast power bowl recipe to inspire consumers to fuel their bodies with eggs. In June, we are continuing the conversation of supply management providing a fair market for our egg farmers. Here's what you can expect to see on social:

