

# 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  
April 15 - Good Friday, Office Closed

### Egg Price Update Effective March 6, 2022

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.780	↑
A	Large	2.780	↑
A	Medium	2.490	↑
A	Small	2.160	↑
A	Nest Run	2.617	↑
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: April 15, 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 our fellow farmers, value chain partners, industry stakeholders, and EFA staff, for making our 53rd Annual General Meeting such a resounding success. It was wonderful to be able to gather and reconnect, while also offering a virtual option for those unable to make it in person. The Board was pleased to see 106 registered Alberta egg farmers participate in the AGM, as part of 227 overall attendees. The Board appreciates everyone who took the time to look back at the highlights from the past year and look ahead to the future of the industry, with the launch of EFA's revamped sustainability strategy.

EFA's 2022 Board of Directors:

- **Chair:** Peter Waldner
- **Vice Chair:** Conrad Vanessen
- **EFC Director:** Beatrice Visser
- **EFC Alternate:** Jerry Hofer
- **Director:** Elie Hofer
- **Director:** John Hofer

Muneer Gilani continues to serve EFA as Alberta's Canadian Egg Industry Reciprocal Alliance (CEIRA) representative, with Joe Kleinsasser serving as alternate.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 8,** Quota Exchange QE2-2022 was launched
- March 15,** Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia AGM
- March 16,** Egg Farmers of New Brunswick AGM
- March 18,** BC Egg Marketing Board AGM
- March 23,** EFC AGM and Open Board Meeting
- March 28 - 29,** EFA Board Meeting
- March 29 - 30,** Egg Farmers of Ontario AGM
- March 31,** Egg Ambassador Webinar
- April 7,** Quota Exchange QE2-2022 Sales Deadline
- April 14,** Quota Exchange QE2-2022 Red/Green Date
- April 15,** Office Closed for Good Friday



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# Healthy Birds

## ➤ Assessing and Cleaning Water Lines in Poultry Production Units

Water quality affects poultry growth, efficiency, and livability and is influenced by microbial level, pH, mineral content, hardness, and organic matter load. Together, these factors can build resistant structures to disinfectants called biofilm inside the water lines which subsequently suppress the birds immune systems, leading to subclinical diseases.

The Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP) has shared some excellent information in their latest newsletter on what biofilm is, how to take water samples, conduct tests, and clean the water lines. For more information on assessing and cleaning water lines in poultry production units or on-farm water testing tools, please visit the following links below.

<https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/cleaning-waterline-biofilm/>  
<https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/tool-of-the-month-on-farm-water-testing-kits/>

If you are interested in getting updates like these directly from PIP, please sign up for their mailing list at the link provided below.

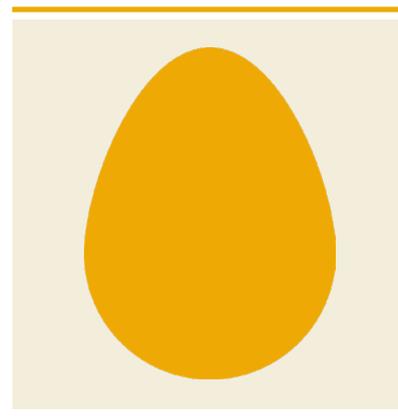
<https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/stay-connected/>



# Healthy Eggs

## ➤ Information on Vaccinating Against Salmonella Enteritidis

Egg Farmers of Canada has developed a two-page document that discusses the effectiveness, administration, and other on farm considerations of Salmonella vaccinations. We have made this document available to you on the Learning and Education section of the Producer Portal. You can access this resource by navigating to the Learning Home and searching for “vaccination” in the resources list.



## ► Clarifications for the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> Programs (Layers and Pullets)

Egg Farmers of Canada has made some recent clarifications for the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> (SC-SC<sup>™</sup>) programs which are summarized below. These clarifications do not require changes on behalf of the farmer; however, they will impact the approach auditors use while on farm.

### Water testing

The SC-SC<sup>™</sup> program requires an annual water test for total coliforms and fecal coliforms. It is recommended that water samples be taken at the incoming source to the farm and as near to waterers as possible. For those with municipally supplied water for their production units, equivalency points may be awarded for the annual water test element if the local laboratories are unable to test municipal water samples.

### Dry-Clean SE test

The SC-SC<sup>™</sup> program requires that farmers who chose to dry-clean must have their facility swab tested for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) 8 weeks prior to repopulation. The programs also require a minimum 7-day downtime between flocks; however, some facilities may remain empty for an extended downtime. Those facilities with extended downtime may be required to have an additional empty barn SE test if they cannot align it with other routine SE tests.

On January 1, 2022 the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Pullet Program was released to reflect the recent program updates and align with the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Layer Program. Clarification has been provided on the updated feed and water consumption record and the letter of assurance for bedding material elements within the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Pullet Program. While these practices have always been included in the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Pullet Program, an associated score was not previously included. To align with the SC-SC<sup>™</sup> Layer Program, scores will be assigned to these three minor elements as follows:

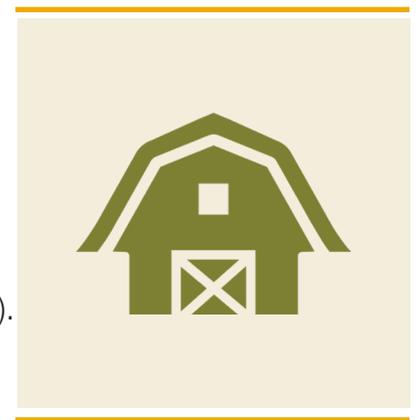
- Feed consumption recorded daily – 1 point
- Water consumption recorded daily – 2 points
- Letter of assurance from bedding supplier – 2 points

Please note: equivalency points are provided for producers that use their own bedding products.

## Healthy Farms

### ► Cleaning and Disinfection of Gassing Equipment

Based on EFA's Standard Operating Procedures, Alberta Agriculture has developed a recommended cleaning and disinfection protocol for gassing equipment (ex. MAC carts and whole barn gassing manifolds and materials). The C&D protocols are now available on the Farmer Resources section of the Learning and Education page on the Producer Portal.



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## ➤ **National Environmental Sustainability Tool (NEST)**

On February 15th Egg Farmers of Canada announced the release of its National Environmental Sustainability Tool (NEST). NEST is an online tool that allows you to measure, monitor and manage the environmental footprint of your farm. With the beta version of NEST, you can perform a sustainability assessment of your farm to understand key drivers of environmental performance, including energy and water use, while also exploring comparisons to farms in your region and across the country.

NEST is currently available to all registered Canadian egg farmers. You can access the tool at [eggsustainability.ca](http://eggsustainability.ca).

## ➤ **Heightened Biosecurity**

Please be advised that Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) is implementing a Heightened Biosecurity advisory for all provinces, until further notice.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed detections of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (AI), subtype H5N1 in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, corresponding with the Atlantic Flyway. The week of February 21st the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic AI in a number of states, including in commercial flocks, most recently in a backyard flock in Michigan within the Mississippi flyway. On Friday February 25th, HPAI was confirmed in a wild eagle in British Columbia, as a result of swabs collected on February 10th. The genetic sequencing indicates that this is a different strain from the East Coast and an independent introduction to the Pacific Flyway.

Highly pathogenic AI has been affecting countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa in recent years, where migratory wild birds are significant to the source of the outbreaks. Increased detections of the highly pathogenic AI in Europe and Africa as well as the recent detections across North America indicate an even higher risk of the disease in Canadian poultry flocks. The implementation of heightened biosecurity procedures on-farm will aid in the mitigation of this risk. **EFC and EFA Field Inspectors as well as third party auditors that have been contracted by EFC will follow heightened biosecurity procedures, effective immediately.** The heightened biosecurity procedures are based on the field inspectors' routine biosecurity measures that they follow, but additional measures have been implemented to enhance the biosecurity.

At this time, we are reminding all farmers to remain vigilant against AI and ensure effective biosecurity measures are in place. You can visit the Learning and Education page on the producer portal and search for 'biosecurity' under resources to return a variety of resources. We have recently posted the 'National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard.' The Standard is intended to provide applicable guidance for owners or managers of all poultry production types in Canada and was developed collaboratively by the CFIA and the national poultry industry organizations. The Standard is designed to be complementary with, and enhance, existing on-farm programs such as the Start Clean - Stay Clean<sup>®</sup> program. At the end of this resource there is a checklist for producers that you may wish to review.

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There is also an accompanying producer guide available at <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/general-producer-guide/eng/1398640321596/1398640379048?chap=0>

It is also important to think about on-farm visitors (i.e.: mechanics, trades, feed reps, etc.), as well as the outside storage requirements within the SC-SC™ Program, as follows:

- Feed storages are constructed and maintained to prevent contamination of feed by water, wild birds, rodents, and insects.
- Consider location of feed storage in relation to air intakes and exhausts of the production unit.
- Consider approaches to the feed storage from the roadway that a feed truck would access.
- Secure the storage from pests (wild birds, rodents, flies, and insects) and water.
- Store bedding in a dry covered location free from birds, insects and rodents.
- Store foraging material in a dry covered location free from birds, insects and rodents.
- All dry goods entering the facility should be stored in a manner that they are protected from contaminants.

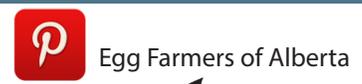
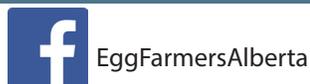
Let's work together to keep our barns free from Avian Influenza!

➤ **Confined VS Restricted Spaces (From AgSafe Alberta)**

Many farms have heard the term confined space used, but have you also heard of the term restricted space? Can you identify where you might have either one on your farm? The final R in FARMERS CARE covers these two terms, how to identify them, and what you need to do to keep people working in or around them safe.

Restricted Space	Confined Space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enclosed or partially enclosed space</li> <li>• Not designed or meant for people to be in it continuously</li> <li>• Difficult to get in and/or out of because of how it is built</li> <li>• Examples might be an attic or crawl space</li> </ul>	<p>Is a restricted space which is or may become hazardous (cause harm) to a person entering it because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An atmosphere that has too little or too much oxygen, is flammable, explosive or toxic.</li> <li>• A condition or changing set of events that may cause illness or injury.</li> <li>• The potential for an activity to produce dangerous or harmful results in the space.</li> <li>• The basic characteristics of an activity that can produce dangerous or harmful results in the space (i.e. gases produced).</li> </ul>

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A restricted space can be thought of as a work area that would be difficult to get in or out of and have all other hazards eliminated or appropriately controlled as per Part 2 of the Alberta OHS Code.

These spaces can include places like this on the farm:

Storage or feed bins, root cellars, sea cans, pump sheds, septic tanks, manure pits, silos, cisterns, crawl spaces, wells and more.

We have created a checklist and flowchart to help you determine which category your space falls into. The checklist can be found on the producer portal under the Learning & Navigation page type “confined space” in the search bar.

Once you have identified these spaces, you should determine what training may be required to enter the space, if any equipment is required, and a plan to respond in case of emergency (that everyone is trained and practiced in). These spaces and their requirements can be complicated, we encourage you to reach out to AgSafe Alberta with any questions at [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca) or 1-833-924-7233.



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## ► Climate Resources

With recent feed input challenges and drought and flood events in western Canada, many of us have been thinking about the future impact of climate change on our industry and our farms and how we might prepare.

With the release of the Learning and Education section of the Producer Portal you can access a resource on “Agricultural Crop Suitability in Alberta in a Changing Climate” by navigating to the Learning Home and searching for “climate” in the resources list. The resource presents findings on modelling of the suitability of Barley, Peas, Corn, Wheat, Soybean, and Canola for growing at a township level for three periods: 1990-2019, 2021-2050, and 2051-2080.

Alberta Climate Records (<http://albertaclimaterecords.com/>) is an application where you can explore climate changes and averages for 6,834 10-by-10 km squares in Alberta for 52 climate indices based on historical records between 1951 - 2017 and three future projections for 2041 – 2070. What does the future hold for your land location in terms of growing temperature, precipitation, and extreme hot and cold events? Does this necessitate changes to your operation?

To develop the Alberta Climate Records resource, researchers completed an analysis of over 500 million weather data points between 1951 and 2017 for 6,834 locations across Alberta. The trends can be summarized as follows:

- Alberta’s climate is warming stronger than the global average. More critically, the fluctuation between warm and cold weather is strongly increasing, indicated by the mostly doubling to four-folding of the number of heatwaves, while the number of cold spells has doubled to four-folded in most of Alberta.
- With the exception of regions with high elevations, snowfall is being replaced by rainfall (because of shorter winters).
- The growing season has lengthened by between 2 and 5 weeks per year.
- In southern and central Alberta, average annual precipitation will slightly increase the future. However, the fluctuation between dry and wet years will increase, resulting in increased risk of floods and droughts.
- The increased precipitation will mostly be balanced by much increased annual potential evapotranspiration by 100 - 300mm, resulting in decreased soil moisture.
- Freeze-thaw days are increasing strongly in central and northern Alberta, resulting in increased weathering/stress on infrastructure (concrete, potholes).
- Energy requirements for heating have decreased by about 10 - 15%, but the energy requirements for cooling are increasing in SE Alberta.
- The trends reported here are likely to continue and accelerate, thus providing an indication of what we expect in the near future.

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## ► From Your Production Management Committee

As we once again start to look forward to spring, it would be a great time to go over our farm safety plan. Brush up and improve on our safety goals before the busy season starts. Accidents are more likely to occur when someone is fatigued or in a hurry. Having a safety plan in place and making sure that all workers are familiar with it can help to make sure we enjoy the warm seasons ahead.

We know from public trust research, that being able and prepared to defend our on farm safety practices is becoming a part of our social license to farm and produce eggs. In the 2021 Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) Public Trust Report it was noted that 31% of those surveyed were “extremely concerned” about the working conditions of farm and food workers. Comparatively 39% were “extremely concerned” about the humane treatment of farm animals. This indicates that consumers worry about the safety of the people that provide their food, as much as how that food is produced. With agriculture being one of the most dangerous occupations in the world, we should be concerned with our and others safety as well, and make it a part of our daily routine.

It's no question that we all want to keep us, our helpers, employees and families safe, and free from injury, but are we doing enough to make that happen? There are a few reasons why we tend to ignore safety, such as time and cost. But if we consider the cost or time of an accident they often far exceed the inconvenience of safety in the first place. Not to mention the hidden costs of stress to people involved, damaged equipment and the overall reduced output to the operation. It takes a little investment and a few minutes to get a step ladder, versus using an upside down pail on an empty barrel to reach a light bulb. But it will take more time and money if you fall.

There are certain steps we should always try to take first to minimize the chances of someone getting hurt. Using PPE to protect us from the dangers of using a broken tool is not our best protecting. For example, we should not only be relying on safety glasses when using a grinder with a chipped or partially broken cut-off-wheel. We should start by eliminating the hazard and use a new cut-off wheel.

The Hierarchy of Hazard controls are:

- **Elimination** – elimination of a hazard is our best protection. Taking broken tools and equipment out of service until they can be repaired or replaced.
- **Engineered** – make sure that all the guards are in place and all machines are in good working order.
- **Administrative** – training is probably the best example of an administrative control. Young helpers in our barns are common, if not expected. One of the best training we can provide these inexperienced workers is to be conciseness about safety ourselves.
- **PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment is the last choice and last chance to protect us from a hazard. . . It's not enough just to have PPE available, it needs to be used. Making simple habits of putting on safety glasses and ear plugs can save us from getting hurt.

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While most of us already do a lot of this without even thinking about it, we need to also consider the documentation. Accidents can and will happen, even if we do everything right. After someone is seriously hurt it's often too traumatic to think about what to do, and what steps to take. This is where the written part comes in. If you have all your documentation in place you can rely on that to help guide you. The red EFA Farm Safety Binder is a great place to go to for record keeping and information. Going through the documentation provided in this binder at least once a year and updating the JTHA's, making sure you have all the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available, and reviewing any of the near missing you have recorded, with everyone in the barn is a great place to start. Having emergency phone numbers posted at every phone is also valuable. Once you do that, you will have a plan already in place in the event of a mishap.

Like all the other on-farm programs we use to help us earn and keep consumer trust, the Farm Safety program will continue to evolve and grow over time. More resources will be handed out on farm that can be added to the binder for quick reference and more will be added to the producer portal as well. As part of the renewal of EFA's Sustainability Strategy the Board has committed to alignment of EFA's Farm Safety Assessment with AgSafe Level 1 audit criteria, which is the level recommended for family farms (\*). Work on this transition will happen this year with EFA piloting a revised audit on a number of egg farms before the end of the year before a broader roll out in 2023. It will help ensure that we are committed to keeping a safe working environment.

\*The updated audit will have a risk rating for every identified hazard, which will indicate the probability of someone being hurt.

## Healthy Communities

### ▶ **Canadian Poultry Research Forum and International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE)/Atlanta Poultry Show Meeting Reports**

The Canadian Poultry Research Forum meeting report features research on nutrition, disease, sustainability, extended flock cycles, biosecurity, genetics, pullet hen housing, management practices and so much more! Did you know that Canada has one of the shortest flock cycles in the world? Find out why by looking at this report on the Research Outcomes page on the producer portal.



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## ➤ From Your Research Committee

During the February 23rd meeting the Research Committee conducted a self-evaluation on effectiveness and opportunities for improvement. The group reflected on the importance of the Research Committee in providing an opportunity to discuss emerging issues, to support the next generation of producers and students, to build solutions, to involve producers in the business of advancing the industry, and to promote research results and learnings to producers. Overall, the Committee felt that good work is being done on the management of funding based on high quality criteria, on focusing on what matters to producers, on leveraging research funds externally, on hearing several perspectives, and on bringing good information back to producers. The Committee brainstormed opportunities for improvement including how to engage additional subject matter experts in the funding decision making process. We agreed to further investigate options that could be implemented to improve depth of understanding of research funding proposals.

## ➤ Launch of QE2-22 Quota Exchange

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Q2-22 Quota Exchange. The goal of the exchange is to ensure accessibility, transparency, and equal access to Alberta's egg quota transactions. If you are interested in selling quota on the QE2-22 Quota Exchange, submit all the required documentation to EFA by the deadline of April 7, 2022. If you have questions, please contact Erin Johnston at 403-250-1197 ext. 127 or by email at [erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca).

## ➤ 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.

## ➤ Campaign Change for 2022

For 2022, we've enhanced our marketing strategy and tweaked our monthly campaigns. This year we will be showcasing 3 main overarching themes all year round. The themes are: Nutrition, Egg Farming and Everyday Eggs. Each theme will be promoted monthly throughout 2022 to highlight important areas of our industry. This month we will share a little bit about egg nutrition, important information on farming & farmers, and of course our recipes. Here's what you can expect on social:

