

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair & EFC Alternate: Beatrice Visser
780-674-6297

Vice Chair: Susan Schafers
780-722-3238

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser
403-653-4480

Director: John Hofer
403-641-2030

Director: Peter Waldner
403-795-8621

Director: Bernadette Vandeborn
780-349-6311

EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal
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, May 21 for
Victoria Day

Egg Price Update

Effective November 12, 2017

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.150	↑
A	Large	2.150	↑
A	Medium	1.920	↑
A	Small	1.550	↑
A	Nest Run	2.025	↑
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: June 8, 2018

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



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd. NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9
P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

EFA Board Update

The Board met with the Egg Industry Advisory Committee (EIAC) and had a really great discussion on what sustainability means to our industry and how that drives the decisions we make. Our definition has always been for our organization to be socially responsible, environmentally sound and economically viable. It is important for us to recognize that egg farmers in Alberta must work together with our partners: feed companies, hatcheries, graders, processors, government, veterinarians, retailers and other interested stakeholders.

All participants at the EIAC meeting used the three-dot approach to giving their votes to 14 themes that emerged from the day's discussion. The following are the top 4 areas for the Board and staff to work on and incorporate into our strategic planning session that will be held in September 2017:

- Engaging/educating consumers
- Value chain collaboration
- Research & data to support policy/program changes
- Production changes relating to new challenges (ie. alternative housing)

Engaging and educating consumers ranked very high on the list, and it is imperative that at all levels of the value chain we continue to talk about the good things we are doing, meet consumers and answer their questions and continue to be very transparent about what our industry is doing. Special thanks to all the farmers who were out in the last few weeks at Aggie Days in Calgary and Lethbridge and at Amazing Ag in Edmonton--you truly make a difference!



HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to March 31, 2018, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.36 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 3.4% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending March 3rd), and an 11.8% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2017.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.5% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.7 million dozen eggs. Regular eggs (standard white and brown eggs) have seen the largest sales growth; a 6.4% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 34.7 million dozen eggs (85.4% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

Save the Date - EFA 50th Anniversary

This year, Egg Farmers of Alberta is turning 50! Can you believe it?!

To mark this significant occasion, EFA is inviting all producers and industry partners to a celebration at the Wild Wild West Event Centre in Calgary on August 29, 2018 from 11am - 3pm.

Stay tuned for Save the Dates!



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Healthy Farms

Alberta Egg Farm Energy Assessments



Thanks to funding from Growing Forward 2, from January to March 2018 3D Energy and Prism Engineering completed energy assessments for 9 existing layer (and pullet) barns. They also completed pre-construction consultations for 5 farmers building new facilities. While each participating producer received their own personalized report, the findings and recommendations were also compiled in a summary document. Key findings were as follows:

- The average energy cost per layer ranged from \$0.24 to \$1.35. This large variance demonstrates the value in understanding how your barn stacks up in comparison to other barns with similar characteristics - are you leaving money on the table?
- In some cases, energy consumption differences were more closely related to management practices than to equipment. For example, one free run facility had very high energy costs. This barn had a minimum ventilation rate of 1.18 CFM/layer versus the average of 0.8 CFM/layer during winter months. While the gas consumption was comparable to other facilities due to a lower indoor barn temperature, there was a large increase in electrical consumption due to increased fan usage.
- The most frequently recommended energy conservation measure was the installation of turbulators on older heating and ventilation equipment. While replacing equipment can have high capital costs, turbulators can be added as low-cost improvements to existing infrared heating tubes and fire tube boilers. The average payback period for this was 1 year with a 152% return on investment.
- Depending on the type of insulation you have, it may be worthwhile to do thermal imaging every few years on your barn wall/ceiling. Rodents, moisture infiltration, and/or settling can all result in insulation degradation which may increase your heating costs. High savings are seen when low performing existing wall assemblies are retrofitted with insulation.

The summary report is available on the producer website, under Best Production Practices, Environment. Thanks to all producers who participated and enabled the development of this educational resource. While the project with 3D Energy and Prism Engineering is now complete, the Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program (FEAP) continues to offer a 50% cost share (up to a maximum of \$9,000) to anyone wishing to have an energy assessment on their facility.



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Director Development Program Update

The EFA Board of Directors have reviewed the requirements of the Director Development Program (DDP), based on feedback received from the EFA regional meetings in January. After careful consideration, the Board has decided to remove the requirement for candidates to have at least 5 years of experience in the egg industry.



EFA's Director Development Program was created to engage the producer membership and stimulate Board succession planning. Each year, one appointed producer will participate in EFA Board meetings as a non-voting Director, to gain exposure to how the EFA Board operates and familiarize themselves with topics of critical importance to the Alberta egg industry.

Interested producers can apply by submitting a letter to the EFA Board, explaining why they would like to be a Director. Letters must be submitted by March 1st of each year. The Board will then appoint one producer to the DDP for a period of 1 year.

Upcoming Events

May 21 - Office Closed

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)

Please return the attached registration form or [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the meeting you would like to attend.

Please register by Monday, May 28, 2018



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Be Seen Be Safe

There has been a promising increase in the adoption of the Be Seen Be Safe Geofencing system in Alberta's poultry industry since the February AGM. Visitor records have increased across all 4 poultry associations, with a 78% increase from February to March (see the graph below)! User signups have also shown improvement and of particular note is the increase in service suppliers that have signed up for the system – 74 are currently registered, an increase of 54% since February! There are currently 65 egg farms in Alberta registered for Be Seen Be Safe.



Progression of BSBS Program Adoption

Monthly Sum of Visitor Records per Poultry Board



It is encouraging to see an increase in the number of egg farmers and service personnel that are registering and using Be Seen Be Safe. This program is helping to improve emergency preparedness and response efforts in Alberta's poultry industry by providing a virtual logbook that monitors people and vehicle movement on and off farm properties. All information is confidential and your location is only recorded when you go on or off a farm that has been geofenced. If you haven't registered for Be Seen Be Safe yet, EFA encourages you to register and explore the tools! The Alberta poultry industry is adopting Be Seen Be Safe as a way of improving emergency preparedness and response efforts in the face of disease threats such as avian influenza.

For more information visit our producer website under "emergency preparedness - Be Seen Be Safe" or www.beseenbesafe.ca



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Visitor Log Books



A visitor log book for each of your barns is a requirement for Start Clean – Stay Clean™ and the Animal Care programs. Each visitor who accesses your barn needs to read the Visitor Policy and then sign the log book. This process ensures that every visitor is aware that they play an important role in upholding animal care and biosecurity practices on your farm. These logs can also be very helpful during a traceback investigation when the egg industry is trying to contain disease or a food safety risk.

If you have visitors that return to your barn on a regular basis, such as egg truck drivers, they can sign a Regular Returning Visitor Signing Sheet to confirm that they have read and understood the visitor policy. EFA has revised the Returning Visitor Signing Sheet to ensure it reflects current on farm practices. Once the recurring visitor signs this form, be sure to keep it on file for your on farm audits.

Keep in mind that this form needs to be reviewed and re-signed once a year. A copy of this form is attached to EggNotes for easy reference. It can also be found on the Producer Website, together with complete Visitor Log Book for Layer and Pullet Barns – look under Start Clean-Stay Clean, Logbooks. Please note that once someone has signed the returning visitor sign-in sheet, there still needs to be a record of each time they are on farm for on farm food safety purposes. This means that the visitor needs to sign the log book, be using the Be Seen Be Safe app, or leave some kind of identifying record such as an egg truck driver slip.

Calling all farm direct producers... you are invited to attend the following events.

Farm Registration for Alberta Open Farm Days

Alberta Open Farm Days returns this August 18-19, and farms have until May 31 to register. Last year's event broke records with 101 host farms; 20,000 visits; 22 farm-to-table culinary events; and over \$146,000 in on-farm sales.

Open Farm Days contributes to building public trust in agriculture, and growing the local food sector by directly connecting consumers with producers right on the farm. The Leaman Exchange recently shared their own experience and some tips on two Call of the Land radio segments (interview one and interview two).

For more information please contact openfarmdays@gov.ab.ca or 780-638-4302, or contact David at the EFA office (ext. 126).



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Healthy Communities



Event Season has Officially Begun

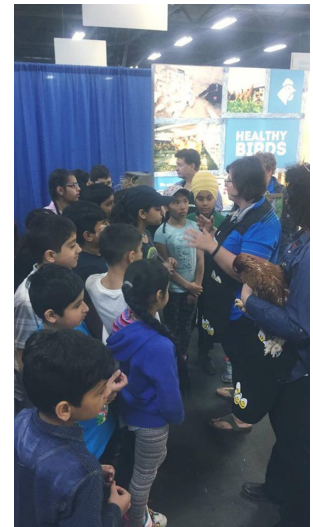
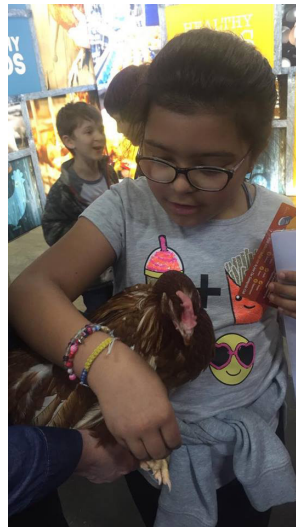
It's officially that time of year again when all our events kick off and we go out into the community and teach young and old all about local eggs in Alberta.

There was a great turn out at Aggie Days Calgary, Aggie Days Lethbridge and Amazing Ag in Edmonton. We brought our interactive hen display with 15 white hens and 15 brown hens and both kids and adults learned something new everyday.

You may all be surprised that a lot of kids and even adults don't know where eggs come from, but with us being out there and engaging the public, we can educate the urban population more about Alberta agriculture. We heard so many great questions! The most common questions include what is the difference between a brown and a white egg, but even better questions as the years go on asking about feed and why there are no roosters in with the hens and what a farmer does everyday to make sure the hens are happy.

All these events have been a great success and it is all thanks to our amazing Egg Ambassadors and Egg Contractors. EFA couldn't do it without you!

Our next event is the famous Calgary Stampede. If you are interested in signing up for a shift, please contact Angie Lang (ext 103) to grab a spot before it's too late. Information for those who have already signed up will be sent out beginning of June.



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U of A PRC Summer Internships

The University of Alberta recently implemented a November “reading week” break to match a long-standing February reading week break. This additional week without scheduled classes and laboratories was approved by the university with the intent that academic programming would be scheduled during this week to assist students in their programs of study.



In 2016 a program was developed to provide students in Animal Science and Animal Health programs with the opportunity to volunteer to work on private farms, the University of Alberta Research Station or large animal/poultry veterinary clinics. The objective of the program was to enable students to gain initial experience so that they could have the experience and confidence to seek longer term employment in animal science. The 3-day internship program has been offered four times in Fall 2016 (15 students), Winter 2016 (22 students), Fall 2017 (50 students) and Winter 2018 (38 students). Students must apply to the program, pay a modest administration fee and are interviewed to assess maturity, background knowledge and to find out their specific commodity interests. Students are then placed in groups of 2-4 and are expected to work 24 hours. An orientation session is provided to help prepare students for what to expect. Students either commute daily or are billeted on work sites. A wind-up session is held after the internship to debrief student experiences and to obtain suggestions for improving the program.

In the poultry area, the U of A has had students work on layer, turkey, broiler breeder and broiler farms. The last two internships have also had a placement with Poultry Health Services in Airdrie. Students are not paid, and they provide boots and coveralls. For sites that are more than an hour drive from Edmonton, students may be provided with funding for accommodation provided by donors to the program.

Any producers interested in hosting students for Fall or Winter internships, or to learn more about the dates for next year are invited to contact:

Frank Robinson (frank.robinson@ualberta.ca).

Pullets for Sale

500 Shaver White pullets for sale turning 19 wks Aug.13.2018
Call Walter at 403 534 2166 ext 169 or email at hens@riverbfarming.ca



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EFA June Regional Meetings

Egg Farmers of Alberta will be hosting a series of regional meetings in June, to provide updates and information about a variety of important issues, to producers and industry partners.



- Tuesday, June 12, 2018 – Calgary (Acclaim Hotel, 123 Freeport Blvd NE, Calgary)
- Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – Grande Prairie (Pomeroy Hotel, 11633 – 100th Street, Grande Prairie)
- Thursday, June 14, 2018 – Edmonton (Executive Royal Hotel, 8540 Sparrow Drive, Leduc)
- Tuesday, June 19, 2018 – Lethbridge (Coast Hotel, 526 Mayor Magrath Drive S, Lethbridge)
- Wednesday, June 20, 2018 – Lethbridge (Coast Hotel, 526 Mayor Magrath Drive S, Lethbridge)

All attendees are required to register for their preferred meeting ahead of time, especially for the Lethbridge meetings, since space is limited each day. Registration for each meeting will open at 9:00 am, with the meetings scheduled to begin at 9:30 am.

Producers will be receiving a hardcopy version of the registration form, which can be submitted to EFA by fax or email.

Producers can also register online: <https://efa123.wufoo.com/forms/wqxykrn0qxijv2/>



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Visitor Policy

Regular Returning Visitor Signing Sheet

In consideration of the strict animal welfare, disease control and biosecurity programs in place for our employees, we request that visitors practice similar procedures when visiting our farms.

This returning visitor signing sheet is meant for all people who visit the production unit on a regular basis, sometimes outside of regular business hours, and could enter the production unit unescorted. An example would be an egg pick-up driver. Any company that employs multiple people who will visit the production unit of the farm will need to fill out a Visitor Policy per employee annually. Please read the visitor policy below and acknowledge your understanding by signing and returning the sheet(s) to the farm to be kept on file.

Our farm allows a limited number of visitors to its egg production and processing facilities when appropriate arrangements have been made in advance.

Your cooperation with the following precautions are necessary.

1. Hens are to be handled in a positive and compassionate manner at all times and any abuse or maltreatment is prohibited.
2. Visitors are expected to contribute to upholding high standards of bird welfare.
3. Visitors must abide by any policy, procedure, or instruction from farm representatives that could affect the welfare of the birds.
4. All visitors must follow Start Clean-Stay Clean™ on-farm biosecurity protocols while on farm.
5. All visitors to our farms must ensure in writing that each visitor will meet the above conditions. Please sign-off on the sign-in sheet to confirm that you have read and understood this code of conduct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Company: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Company: _____

Date: _____