

# EggNotes

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<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998
<b>EFC Director:</b>	Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297
<b>EFC Alternate:</b>	Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501
<b>Director:</b>	Elie Hofer 780-691-8512
<b>Director:</b>	John Hofer 403-363-0393
<b>Director in Training:</b>	Vacant

**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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### Egg Price Update Effective January 29, 2023

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.840	↓
A	Large	2.840	↓
A	Medium	2.540	↓
A	Small	2.180	↓
A	Nest Run	2.672	↓
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 portal.

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: June 16, 2023**

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



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Website: [eggs.ab.ca](http://eggs.ab.ca) | Producer Portal: [portal.eggs.ab.ca](http://portal.eggs.ab.ca)  
Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca) | Office hours: M-F: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

# Board Update



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to advise our fellow producers of the mandatory regulatory review process that has been initiated for the bylaws, the marketing regulation, and the plan regulation. The plan regulation has a review date of September 30, 2024, and the marketing regulation has an expiry date of September 30, 2024. The Board and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Council) staff have reviewed the bylaws and regulations, and have identified some proposed amendments. While no significant policy shifts have been identified, EFA is collaborating with Council staff to work through quite a few clarifications and corrections to the bylaws, the marketing regulation, and the plan regulation.

EFA hopes to publish a summary of the proposed amendments to the producer portal ahead of the June regional meetings, where the EFA Board will be available to answer any questions producers may have. EFA will continue working through the regulatory review process and plans to have approvals for any proposed amendments in late 2023 or early 2024.

## *EFC Summer Meeting*

The EFA Board would like to encourage Alberta producers to attend the 2023 Canadian Egg Farmers Summer Meeting, which is being held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from July 8-12. The summer meeting will also be an opportunity to celebrate Egg Farmers of Prince Edward Island's 50th anniversary.

To learn more about the conference or to register to attend, please visit the conference website – note: the deadline to register and make a hotel reservation is May 31, 2023.

[https://events.myconferencesuite.com/2023\\_Canadian\\_Egg\\_Farmers\\_Summer\\_Conference/reg/landing](https://events.myconferencesuite.com/2023_Canadian_Egg_Farmers_Summer_Conference/reg/landing)



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## PEFIP Update

EFA encourages all Alberta egg farmers to register for the Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) if you have not already done so. Once registered, producers will have access to their own unique portal, where they can confirm how much funding is available to them and manage their applications. As a reminder, EFA has a PEFIP Toolkit available on the producer website, and David Webb (ext.126) at the EFA office is available to assist you.

Here is the link to the public PEFIP website, where you can read all the details about the program: [Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program: Step 1. What this program offers | Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada \(AAFC\)](#)

Here is the link to the second site, where producers register and then sign-in to your producer portal, once you have registered: <https://pefip-pifvo.agr.gc.ca/PEFIP/public/welcome.jsf?lang=en>

Many producers have confirmed that the PEFIP registration process and application process is very easy, and the PEFIP even has a dedicated helpdesk that can be reached by phone or email. There is still a backlog of applications, which means it could be up to five months before you hear from a PEFIP representative, after an application has been submitted.

EFA has also heard that there are companies canvassing egg and poultry farms across Canada, offering their services to help complete the registration and application process for farmers, while charging a 10% fee. While farmers are free to work with whomever they choose, EFA would strongly recommend that egg farmers complete the registration and application processes themselves (or with the help of their bank), with the free assistance of both EFA and the PEFIP helpdesk as needed, to ensure you are able to access 100% of your available funding.



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## Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to April 22nd, which is period 4 for 2023. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.1 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 0.9% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending March 28th), and a 2.5% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2022.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 1.6% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.2 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the smallest sales decline; a 0.2% decrease over the previous 52 weeks, to 34.95 million dozen eggs (86.8% 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.

## Avian Influenza (AI) Update

There continue to be 3 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province. The CFIA recently released its revised separation of IP policy and was sent to producers. It is strongly encouraged that producers review the criteria and consider how it might apply to their farm.

## Western Poultry Conference

The Western Poultry Conference will be held on June 14th at Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta. Producers can find out more about the agenda and register at <https://westernpoultryconference.ca/register>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 22** | Office closed for Victoria Day

**May 25** | 2023 QE2 Run Date

**June 6** | 2023 QE3 Launch

**June 6-8** | Farm Safety Workshops

**June 7-8** | EFA Board Meeting

**June 14** | Western Poultry Conference

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

*Missed a recent webinar? You can watch the recordings of past webinars on the producer portal >*  
<https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/producer-portal/learning-portal/webinars-and-eggbites>



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# Healthy Farms

## *Regulation of compost under the Fertilizers Act*

Fertilizers (plant nutrients) and supplement (other products that improve the condition of the soil or promote crop yield) are regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the Fertilizers Act and Regulations. Farmers looking to sell their compost may have questions about how these regulations impact them. EFA worked with the CFIA to develop a Question-and-Answer document which is now available on the Learning and Education page of the Producer Portal by searching “compost”. Did You know? The labelling requirements for compost are the same whether the material is sold by a farmer or a commercial outlet.



In an eggshell, compost for sale must have a label that provides:

- Product identity and description
- Guaranteed analysis (including organic matter content, nutrients [if applicable] and any other active ingredient)
- Directions for use
- Any applicable precautionary statements (i.e., if the compost may contain prohibited materials)



## *Building Codes*

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has announced that Alberta will not be adopting the large farm building provisions in the National Building Code 2022 edition. This means large farm buildings and all farm buildings will continue to be exempt from the Alberta editions of the building, fire and energy codes.



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# Healthy Birds

## *Pullet Outcome-Based Measures Pilot Study - an article from your PMC*

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Production Management Committee has been asked by Egg Farmers of Canada to assist with collecting data from pullet growers to help inform the National pullet requirements for the upcoming pullet Animal Care Program (ACP). This exercise aims to collect certain pullet information via data collection and outcome-based measures and understand how they fare in relation to breed management targets and Code requirements. This program will be for both free run and cage raised birds. We cannot stress enough the importance of your input and the impact it can have on setting the standards of the program.



To get real and accurate pullet rearing information we are relying on you the pullet growers to supply accurate data from your pullet flock histories. We are looking for 2 single tier (floor) systems with at least one round feeder, 3 aviaries, and 3 conventional pullet systems and have reached out to individual producers directly with a request to participate. The goal is to collect data for weeks 6-8 and weeks 16-18 on feed consumption, feed space, water consumption, body weight, square inches/bird, breed, uniformity, and mortality.

Please note regardless of the outcomes of the study, there is no guarantee of a change in the National standards. Rather, the study aims to provide valuable on-farm information that will help us better understand the pullet landscape and may play a role in assisting with future initiatives such as measuring pullet rearing facilities, amending the Code of Practice, and developing ACP-Pullets.

## *Small Order Reports - Reminder to Collect Information on Buyers*

EFA's marketing regulations state that registered producers must keep a record of the date, number and location of hens sold. As a reminder, it is critically important that each pullet grower and layer producer provide a Form 15 (small order) report to EFA of any pullets or hens sold to non-commercial producers from each flock grown no later than 7 days after the end of the month in which they turned 19 weeks.

The Form 15 is on the producer portal and can be printed as a pdf or filled out electronically. Alternatively, it can be requested via email from Erin at [erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:erin.johnston@eggs.ab.ca). **When you are filling out your Small Order Report, please remember to fill out the full name, phone number, and address of the buyer.** Given current disease risks in the Alberta poultry industry, traceability is more important than ever. A few minutes to gather this information at the time of sale can help to protect the whole industry. Some producers have even made their own internal policy that they will not sell to backyard producers without collecting the PID number of those who they sell to.



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## Research Project Takeaways – An EggNotes article from your Research Committee

On April 25th, the research committee met to learn more about the final outcomes of three projects funded by Egg Farmers of Alberta. The following takeaways were gleaned from the studies:

### *Vaccine- Mediated Control of Shell-less Egg Syndrome (SES) Caused by a Variant Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV) in Western Canada – Dr. Faizal Careem*

This project recommended that for producers to mitigate the risk of Shell-less Egg Syndrome they could vaccinate pullets with either live attenuated mass infectious bronchitis virus at 1 day or 3 weeks using a spray or a mass+conn infectious bronchitis virus live attenuated vaccine at 2-3 weeks apart in 3 doses using either a spray or water application in addition to other hatchery vaccines. The data strongly supported the need to follow-up at 14-16 weeks with an inactivated mass infectious bronchitis virus vaccine which is applied intramuscular. One of the challenges is building these proposed recommendations into a vaccination schedule to reduce any additional bird handling that may impact the onset of production. Members suggest producers work with their poultry veterinarians to develop a vaccine schedule that includes the infectious bronchitis virus vaccine particularly with the addition of the final killed vaccine, work within their management practices, and seek to have minimal impacts on their production.

### *Precision Feeding Layers for Improved Uniformity, Production, and Sustainability – Dr. Martin Zuidhof*

The precision feeding initiative originated from studies in broilers and broiler breeders. This study focused on learning more about how this technology could improve nutrition in the layer industry. Thus, the outcomes of this research are still in the early stages and have potential for additional exploration. The study found that the current industry practice of non-restricted feeding resulted in better body weight, feed intake, body fat, and egg production. In general, standard industry energy diets had a positive impact on all parameters (body weight, body fat, feed intake, and egg production), however it can result in a decline in egg production and a marginal rise in feed cost if the birds were limited by feed intake. Birds fed a high metabolic energy diet had positive results in all parameters (body weight, body fat, feed intake, and egg production) regardless of feed restriction. Members suggested that in practice diets are not typically changed at a fix timepoint in the lay cycle but rather the case weight, bird weight, and age are all considered when conducting a natural transitions in diets. There is a desire for additional research in this area.

### *Spent Hen Hydrolysis – Marc Legault*

The researcher brought in samples of the spent hen hydrolysis end product for the research committee to experiment with. One committee member commented that the end product was an effective fertilizer for their aloe vera plant and works well as a fertilizer. This product has the potential to be of interest to the irrigation and greenhouse companies. This provides a natural alternative to synthetic fertilizers which can negatively impact the microbes in the soil. A new facility is being built to scale up this production in Lacombe. There is interest in observing the development of the business structure to see if there is uptake from fertilizer consumers to purchase the product and a willingness from layer producers to provide their end of lay byproducts.



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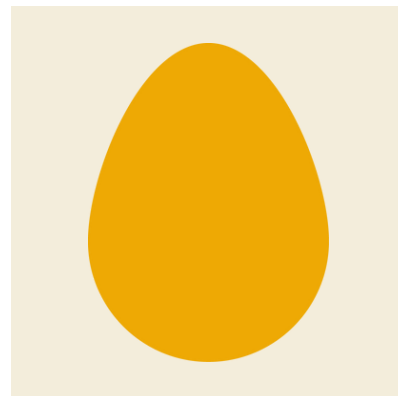
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# Healthy Eggs

## *Start Clean – Stay Clean®, Non-Toxic Bedding*

The SC-SC™ program requires a letter of assurance from bedding material suppliers to mitigate the risk of contamination from inputs. The NFACC Layer Code of Practice requires that bedding must not be harmful or toxic to birds. As of May, a Critical Control Element requires that bedding material is supplied from an untreated/non-toxic source and requires that bedding material is free from mold or other visible contamination. At the January regional meetings, it was raised that some suppliers are unwilling to provide a letter to this regard because sometimes they have to spray for pine beetles. It was noted that finding alternative suppliers has been difficult and it is not a good idea to go to using bales from the field owing to the risk of Avian Influenza.



EFA inquired with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) as to possible alternative options for meeting this requirement. EFC's Production Management Committee discussed the topic. They felt the program parameters are clear and that all farmers need a letter of assurance for non-toxic bedding.

We have been advised that Mountainview Eco-Products out of Sundre, Alberta is willing and able to provide such a letter. Tony Ganser is the manager there. Please visit the "General Discussions" section of the producer portal forum for his contact information.

EFA would like to thank Tim Kleinsasser at Old Elm Colony for providing this information on supply options.

## *Clarification on Pharmaceutical and Supplement usage in the Start-Clean, Stay-Clean® Program*

Egg Farmers of Canada has clarified that pharmaceuticals (defined as a drug or medicine that is prepared or dispenses and used in medical treatment to treat or prevent disease) and supplements (defined as a non-pharmaceutical vitamin, mineral, or additive used on farm for the purpose of benefiting production) are to be used only in accordance with the manufacturers or veterinarian's instruction.

**As of May 1, 2023 producers are expected to provide written documentation to their auditors confirming that all pharmaceuticals and supplements used are in accordance with instructions by the manufacturer or veterinarian.**



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## *Classified Ads*

### ***Poultry Equipment for Sale!***

- Big dutchman flat chains feed drives and corners
- Egg gathering equipment for big dutchman conventional cages
- End manure drives big dutchman

If interested, please contact Joe at  
403-323-7705

## **Are you selling equipment that you would like featured here?**

Contact Tate O'Dwyer, EFA's Marketing & Social Media Coordinator at 587-391-6122 and your ad could be in the next month's edition! Classified ads are also located on the Classified forums section of the Producer Portal.



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# Healthy Communities

## *Aggie Days 2023 a huge success!*

EFA was excited to attend Aggie Days in Calgary, Alberta. Aggie Days is a free agricultural event that has interactive activities, live animals and puts a spotlight on the industry. There were many industry organizations participating at the 5-day event telling their story of life on the farm.

EFA was permitted to have live birds at our booth which drew much interest from students, kids, parents, and families. We also had local farmers work at the booth throughout the event, including a couple of our Board of Directors, Chair Peter Waldner, and Director Elie Hofer. Thank you to the Egg Ambassadors who helped out. There were plenty of great questions, photos, and interaction although kids were not allowed to feed or touch the birds due to avian influenza precautions. We handed out spice packs, our did you know pamphlets, and thousands of silly putty eggs!

Wednesday to Friday was only open to grade 3-6 students, with a total of 6,500 students walking through the doors. Saturday and Sunday were open to the public and both days were very busy.

EFA is hopeful that we will have birds at our next big event coming up in July, the Calgary Stampede.

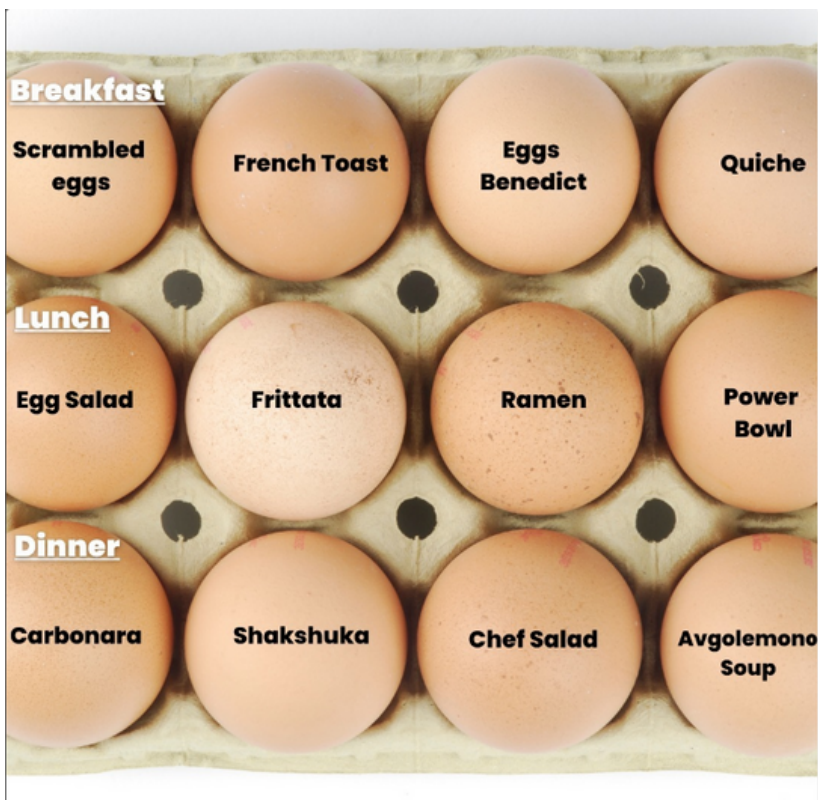


## Marketing Highlights

Here's a snapshot of some recent highlights in the marketing world!



### *What can you make with 12 eggs?*



This was a graphic we recently posted on our social channels showing recipe ideas for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It became a hit on Instagram as we had 29 likes and 1,012 impressions!

### *Have you listened to The Cracked Egg? EFA's Consumer Podcast!*



Listen to our most recent episode, where we spoke with Arianna Scott, CEO of Food Banks Alberta - [eggs.ab.ca/podcast](https://eggs.ab.ca/podcast).

*Happy Mother's Day  
on May 14th!*



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