

EggNotes

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Vice Chair: Conrad Vanessen	403-635-7998
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EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer	403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer	780-691-8512
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Fields Services Coordinator

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

Due to COVID-19, EFA office is closed. Staff are
working from home and are available during regular
business hours (7:30 am - 4 pm) by phone and email.

Egg Price Update Effective July 18, 2021

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.610	↑
A	Large	2.610	↑
A	Medium	2.320	↑
A	Small	1.990	↑
A	Nest Run	2.455	↑
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

Next Issue: December 17, 2021

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



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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

Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to confirm several significant changes that were recently made to the structure and organization of the EFA Board. Meb Gilani was removed from the Board after being deemed ineligible to continue to act as a Board member under the Egg Farmers of Alberta Plan Regulation. John Hofer, a past Director from Clearview Colony, has been appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy. John will serve until the next Annual General Meeting in early 2022. The Board continues to serve Alberta egg farmers and guide the provincial egg industry.

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

If you have any questions or concerns about the recent changes to the EFA Board, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Directors.

➤ Quota Exchange Changes

New! Quota Exchange applications can now be accepted through the portal.

The board has decided to change the quota exchange policy so that all quota will transfer from the seller to the buyer on the same day, known as the quota transfer date. This will be effective for the first quota exchange of 2022, which launches on December 7, 2021. The deadline to submit sales applications is January 6, 2022. The updated policy and schedule will be posted to the producer portal on December 3.

➤ Quota Leasing Pool Changes

The next quota leasing pool was launched on November 7, 2021. As communicated prior, this pool will be a yearlong, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. A major change for this pool is that producers that are leasing from the pool must first have their capacity verified. The updated policy has been posted to the producer portal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17, Farm Data Management & Preparing for the Producer Portal Webinar

November 23, EFP Program - Blue Sky Session in Ottawa

November 24, FPA Committee Workshop in Ottawa

November 25, Quota Exchange Date

November 29 – Quota leasing pool applications are due

December 8, Board Member Orientation

December 9 & 10, EFA Board Meeting



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Healthy Birds

➤ **Upcoming Flock Talk on On-Farm Post-Mortems: How to be your vet's right hand!**

Egg Farmers of Alberta in partnership with Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP) are putting together a virtual post-mortem/necropsy flock talk on November 17, 2021 from 11:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. MST. Learn the basics of anatomy with Dr. Teryn Girard, a practicing poultry veterinarian in Alberta as well as the benefits of performing post-mortems on your farm with Dr. Mike Petrik, a practicing poultry veterinarian based out of Ontario. Producers will learn to recognize what normal and abnormal anatomy looks like, tips for successfully completing a post-mortem, and what information to provide your veterinarian to achieve good telemedicine.



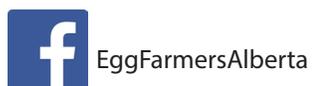
To register for this event, please visit <https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/event/flock-talk-how-to-be-your-vets-right-hand/> or call or email Carley Frerichs at 403-250-1197 x 125 or carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca.

➤ **Pullet Animal Care Update**

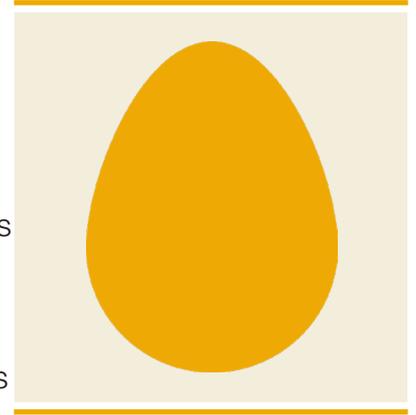
During the recent Strategic Planning session, the Board and EFA staff discussed ongoing challenges with respect to helping producers prepare for the launch of the pullet animal care program. While we anticipate that the Pullet Animal Care Program launch will lag behind the revised layer animal care program there is still significant uncertainty about timelines. There are a number of steps that need to happen including the development of a pullet measuring protocol and the issuance of capacity certificates. While it may seem a pullet measurement protocol should mirror the layer protocol there are some unique aspects of these systems – particularly in aviary rearing systems – where guidance is needed to ensure consistency across the country. We recognize this creates challenges for producers looking at investing in pullet housing and we hope to be able to provide you with more detail as soon as possible.

While we cannot yet provide all pullet growers confirmation of their capacity under the new Pullet Animal Care Program, we still feel it is important that producers keep in mind the code requirements and (for those who aren't already) start to develop plans to meet these requirements. In 2018 EFA developed and delivered a Pullet Animal Care checklist. In 2021 we will be updating this checklist, based on learnings during the layer program development, and reviewing it with all pullet growers – some of whom may not have had the opportunity the first time around.

The code's 5-year review will take place in 2022. This review can result in a number of recommendations including no change, a full Code update, or Code amendments. New science and research is considered during the 5 year Code review, as are other factors such as progress toward implementing the Code.



Healthy Eggs



➤ Food Safety Policy Reminder - Sourcing Pullets

We would like to remind all producers that EFA's Food Safety Policy requires registered egg producers to source from pullet growers that are accredited in the SC-SC™ pullet program.

When ordering pullets, it is critical that you confirm that your pullet grower is accredited and that they have been assessed by the SC-SC™ program in the past 12 months. Pullet growers should include confirmation of accreditation on the Pullet Flock History Certificate that is provided with delivery of the 19-week-old birds. You may also wish to ask for a copy of their accreditation certificate or their most recent assessment. Your EFA Field Coordinator will confirm this pullet sourcing requirement when they are on farm to count your flock - please make sure you have this document on hand for verification.

➤ Update on SE Testing Policy

Recently, EFC finalized their "National SE Guidance Document on SE Testing & Mitigating Public Recalls in the Egg Industry". In line with this guidance document, EFA has updated our Food Safety Policy to incorporate the following elements:

- EFA **highly** recommends that producers selling eggs directly do NOT ship/sell eggs during the period between Salmonella test and receipt of test result. This aligns self-graders and those selling at farm-gate with the same policies and procedures in place for those shipping to grading stations and protects the industry from a recall.
- IF a producer chooses to store and ship eggs produced and collected prior to the test date during the period pending test results, it is critical to have strong segregation and traceability protocols in place. Daily lot numbers may assist with this.
- Environmental sampling will not be conducted on the same day as a pick-up. (Whenever possible, it will be conducted the day after pick-up).

➤ New Processor Policy Requirements

EFA hosted a Zoom meeting November 8, 2021 with registered self graders to discuss the new processor policy. This policy was revised to fall in line with Regulations and now applies to all processors, whether or not they grade their own eggs or grade other producer's eggs. The most notable change is that now these producers need to complete an application and will receive a license from EFA each year. The reporting requirements have not changed. There was significant engagement during the meeting and a lot of comments and questions regarding these new requirements and how they will benefit the industry in terms of more visibility and accountability for all graders. Please check out the new producer portal at portal.eggs.ab.ca to view the video and meeting report. Look under Webinars and Eggbites.



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➤ Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to October 9th, 2021, which is period 10/13 for 2021. The stats indicate that in the latest 4-week period 3.1 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 5.8% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending September 11th), and an 5.0% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2020.

The reason for the significant decline compared to last year was that this period was during the second COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, when the market experienced a second surge of isolation-induced egg purchasing.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 4.4% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 42.0 million dozen eggs. Alternative eggs (organic, free-range and free-run) have experienced the smallest decline, down 1.9% over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.8 million dozen eggs (11.4% 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.

Healthy Farms

➤ Release of the Updated Emergency Contact Tree

Thank you to all Alberta pullet/egg producers who signed up for the emergency contact tree at our August regional meetings. We appreciate your willingness to help your fellow farmers with manpower or equipment in the event of a poultry related emergency. Egg Farmers of Alberta recommends that all producers visit the producer website at Emergency Preparedness & Response (Healthy Farms) to print a copy of the updated emergency contact tree to keep handy. For those producers transporting birds, this contact list can be used as part of your contingency/emergency plan.



If you are interested in signing up to assist in a poultry related emergency, please contact Carley Frerichs at 403-250-1179 x 125 or carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca.

➤ Producer Portal

We are excited to announce that the producer portal launched on November 5. We will be building the capacity of the portal over the next couple of years, but in the meantime, you can find lots of your information. If you are having problems logging in, please email Kari at kari.buijs@eggs.ab.ca.



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► Safety Minute – Chemicals

From AgSafe Alberta

This month's letter encompasses chemicals and while often our first thoughts go to chemicals used for crop production, there are many other times and places we interact with them.

Chemicals for disinfecting or sanitizing equipment need to be stored and managed as per the label. If you pour some chemical from a large container into a smaller more manageable container, make sure it is labelled correctly so others know what is in it (AgSafe has stickers for this if you need some). Keep in mind that this even includes some products in the laundry room (i.e. bleach).

Take time to review the chemicals found on your farm and the safety information for them and make sure you have the appropriate plan and safety equipment should an incident happen. Then make sure to train everyone on the farm with the chemical information and how to respond to an exposure.

Chemicals can enter our bodies in a number of ways skin or eye contact, swallowed, inhaled or injected. Different body parts have different absorption rates, this is why it is important to wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended on the Safety Data Sheet.

Here are some key points to keep everyone safe around chemicals on the farm:

- Ensure everyone has WHMIS 2015 training and are familiar with the products they will be handling
- Make sure containers are labelled
- Keep Safety Data Sheets readily accessible to everyone on the farm
- Store products in safe locations
- Wear the correct type of personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling chemicals
- Make sure you have a first aid kit and eye wash station that are up to date and clean

AgSafe Alberta currently has a free WHMIS 2015 course available online and has put together an in-person workshop that has optional modules on pharmaceuticals and pesticides that can be added if interested. To book one of these courses email info@agsafeab.ca.

Camelina meal for sale in bulk form. Meal contains 36% protein and 5.3% linolenic acid, the plant-based source of Omega 3. Camelina meal approved for up to 10% inclusion in layer ration by Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2015. Sample and nutritional analyses available. **If interested, contact Paul at paul@biopure-oil.com or 1(306) 331-0045**



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➤ **Improving Nitrogen-Use Efficiency on the Farm**

Nitrogen is essential for egg production, but its ammonia and nitrous oxide emissions can present risks to the respiratory health of hens, egg farmers and their staff, and can have adverse environmental consequences. Recently, researchers at the University of British Columbia and the University of Waterloo conducted a study to better understand mitigation options for reducing nitrogen emissions at key stages of the egg production supply chain.

The researchers compared mitigation options based on a combination of environmental, technical and economic criteria. Several top strategies emerged for reducing nitrogen emissions during the feed crop production and feed formulation stages. These include adding biochar to cropland; reducing nitrogen excretion by feeding laying hens lower crude protein diets supplemented with synthetic amino acids or enzymes; and implementing the 4R Nutrient Stewardship principles designed by Fertilizer Canada. The 4Rs stand for the Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place @.

Promising strategies for manure management and nitrogen-use efficiency include implementing appropriately-sized mechanical ventilation and bedded systems in poultry housing systems while also using manure belts or scrapers and ammonia scrubbers; covering and adding biochar to manure storage; and integrating manure as a fertilizer for crop production.

The researchers also considered the broader implications of using these strategies, aiming to ensure that recommended strategies do not create negative trade-offs with respect to other important economic and sustainability goals for Canadian egg farmers.

The journey towards a greener, more sustainable industry is built on a vision of continuous improvement and collaboration. By considering opportunities to optimize feed crop production, feed formulation and manure management based on this new research, egg farmers may reduce harmful emissions and increase the environmental sustainability of egg production.

This project received funding from Egg Farmers of Canada. For more information, please visit www.eggfarmers.ca/research where you can read the research summary about this project.

➤ **Release of the Movement Tracing Video Recording**

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) is pleased to announce the release of the video recording from the first engagement webinar on Movement Tracing. For those producers who were unable to attend or would like a recap of what was discussed, please visit the new producer portal webinar page at <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca>.

Below is a list of the action items that arose from the Movement Tracing webinar and the steps taken by EFA to address each action item.

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- **ACTION ITEM #1:** Investigate if there are options to increase the value proposition to the producer to encourage the full use of the paper logbooks.
 - **Follow-up to #1:** The paper logbooks were presented to Production Management Committee (PMC) for suggestions and no further value propositions were proposed.

- **ACTION ITEM #2:** Review the user agreement on Farm Health Guardian to determine who owns the data, how it can be used, and any litigation risks to the producers, industry partners, or poultry boards.
 - **Follow-up to #2:** The terms of use and privacy policy can be found on Farm Health Guardian’s website (<https://farmhealthguardian.com/about/>). For an additional Q&A document on data usage for Farm Health Guardian, please contact Carley Frerichs at 403-250-1197 x 125 or carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca.

- **ACTION ITEM #3:** Connect with EFC to determine their position on traceability/geofencing.
 - **Follow-up to #3:** Back in 2012, Egg Farmers of Canada developed the Canadian Egg Industry Traceability System (CEITS) Voluntary Standard in partnership with Canadian Poultry Egg Processors Council, provincial egg boards and Pullet Growers of Canada. Currently, EFC does not have a position on geofencing but would be willing to work with the provinces on one.

- **ACTION ITEM #4:** Add the issue of mandatory water treatment (and the potential risk of not treating to the industry as a whole owing to water as an AI reservoir) to the next Alberta PMC meeting agenda for further discussion.
 - **Follow-up to #4:** The PMC proposed that EFA ask EFC to investigate the risk and consider its incorporation into the program if the risk is deemed to be high.

- **ACTION ITEM #5:** Add geofencing/movement tracing to the next Colony Elders meeting to gauge buy in.
 - **Follow-up to #5:** The geofencing/movement tracing was brought forward at the Colony Elders meeting on October 26th. Overall, the Board Directors and Colony Elders felt moving to a digital logbook focused specifically on the layer/pullet operation was a positive approach. There was particular interest in a system that would allow flexibility in how farms could get the information into the system (ex. scannable key fobs, smartphone at entry, texting a number upon arrival, etc.)

- **ACTION ITEM #6:** Add a “going to” column in the visitor logbook to better support tracing.
 - **Follow-up to #6:** The PMC supported adding a “going to” column to the logbooks and suggested increasing the column size to make more space for entries. The new logbooks will be circulated in early 2022.



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Healthy Communities



► List of Safe Websites

Having the ability to access information through technology is becoming increasingly important. To assist producers in finding helpful resources, the list of safe websites has been updated and made available on the left-hand side of the producer website home page. Please share this list as needed to gain access to these websites and communication platforms on your colonies which are important for the daily functioning of your pullet/egg facilities.

► From Your Research Committee

As part of the latest Research Committee agenda, we reviewed and discussed Dr. Nathan Pelletier's research proposal titled "Long Life Layers—An environmental, economic and animal welfare cost/benefit analysis". Which farmer doesn't want more eggs per hen housed? It sounds easy...just keep the birds longer than the traditional 51 weeks. Other countries are doing this, so why couldn't this be done in Canada.

There are definitely benefits to keep our layers in production longer, but Dr. Pelletier is wanting to determine whether or not production and egg quality can keep up. There are economic, environmental, logistical, and animal welfare impacts that need to be investigated. To achieve this, he will be using an extensive data set collected in 2019 from over 200 egg farms across Canada, along with USA egg industry data and relevant data from existing literature.

Dr. Pelletier's research goals are to help Canadian egg farmers make informed decisions on extending lay cycles, as well as achieve more sustainable egg production that increases lay persistency, reduces resource use and environmental impacts, and optimizes pullet and breeder flock cycles.

Our industry is always changing and adapting and we are looking forward to the results of this study in August 2023.



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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 or call 587-391-6122.

► EFA Gives Back Campaign for November

As part of our 2021 marketing strategy, we've developed a themed monthly campaign as an engaging and creative way to share all the wonderful information about eggs. For the month of November, we are highlighting our social responsibility initiatives. Furthermore, we are bringing light to our involvement with Food Banks Alberta and Breakfast Club of Canada as we do our part in contributing to our communities. Follow us on social to learn about how we support EFA's vision statement of 'healthy families'.

