

EggNotes

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Director in Training:	Vacant

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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Egg Price Update Effective November 5, 2023

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	3.030	↑
A	Large	3.030	↑
A	Medium	2.730	↑
A	Small	2.370	↑
A	Nest Run	2.853	↑
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 monthly newsletter of Egg Farmers of Alberta. Submissions should be sent to:
tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: December 15, 2023

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



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Website: eggs.ab.ca | Producer Portal: portal.eggs.ab.ca
Email: 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 applaud our fellow producers who have already agreed to share the data collected by EFA during their Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP) assessment. Producers can choose to share their information with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC), for use in the National Environmental Sustainability and Technology Tool (NESTT), or choose to keep the information confidential with EFA. The question will be asked to each producer as part of your PEEP assessment. Your willingness to participate is another step in our shared journey of cultivating a truly sustainable egg industry in Alberta and across Canada.

The Board encourages all Alberta egg farmers to consider providing consent to allow EFA to share your PEEP data with EFC. All data is shared anonymously and only after you direct EFA to do so on your behalf, which will be added to NESTT to help inform future life cycle analysis of the entire egg industry and support our collective goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Levy Increase

Please be advised that EFA implemented updated service charge amounts, effective November 5, 2023. The service charge for registered producers is \$14.512 per hen / per year, while the service charge for other producers is \$0.5468 per dozen.

AI Update

As of the time of publication, there are 3 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 12 total cases as of November 15, 2023. We ask producers to remain vigilant to help mitigate further spread of AI.

Barn Gassing

A producer was recently wanting to share resources when gassing and asked how to find other like-minded producers. They were excited to learn that we have a list for producers that gas to sign up, and then share their location and month of depopulation. Unfortunately, the list is not too well used. Consider filling out the form found under Producer Forum > Whole Barn Gassing List on the Producer Portal.

Quota Leasing Pool

The applications for the 2024/2025 Quota Leasing Pool & 2024 Out of Province Leasing Pool went out on November 6, 2023. Please call or email Erin if you have any challenges filling out the form. A video has been posted to the Producer Portal under the Quota Page > Quota Leasing Pool. Forms are due back by November 27, 2023.



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UPCOMING KEY DATES

November 21-22 | Alberta Milk AGM
November 27 | Quota Leasing Pool Applications due for the 2024/2025 pool and the 2024 Out of Province Lease
December 5 | 2024 Quota Exchange Launch
December 7-8 | EFA Board Meeting
December 29 | Allocate the pool and confirm birds from the pool
January 4 | QE Sales Deadline
January 12 | Confirm birds to the pool
January 16 | Calgary Regional Meeting

Healthy Farms

Ideal Production Strategies to Mitigate the Risk of Heat Stress - Climate Resiliency Document

In 2022, EFA conducted a climate risk assessment for the Alberta pullet/egg industry. The assessment identified key areas of climate change impacts that could affect Alberta pullet/egg producers. This year, EFA has been working on developing resources to guide producers on ways to minimize climate change impacts on their farms. Now available on the producer portal is a new resource on ideal production strategies to mitigate the risk of heat stress. To access these documents, please visit the Learning and Education page on the producer portal.



Strategies in the Fall to Mitigate Risk of Wildfires

One of the learnings from the project with All One Sky, regarding climate risks and adaptation actions, was to reduce damage to buildings and property from wildfires. One way to do this, is to encourage Alberta egg farmers to adapt FireSmart Guidelines and practices on farm. This will be article one of a four part series and will focus on fall wildfire prevention tips.

Fall is the time of year when everyone is busy on the farm, with getting harvesting done and hauling in the last of the bales before snow sets in. Wildfires are probably not the first thing you are going to think about, but with some planning this fall you can help to mitigate the threat of forest fires and grass fires.

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Cut	Cultivate	Clean	Check
<p>It is not only in the spring that dry grass can be a hazard. Grass fires can spread rapidly in late fall and winter because of high winds and lack of snow cover which can threaten farm land and barns. Mowing your grass short in the fall can be a great way to create fire breaks which will slow the spread of an impending wildfire.</p>	<p>Make a few passes around your yard, buildings and feed storage area before putting your tillage equipment away for the winter. You may consider doing this around the adjoining property as well to help prevent the spread of fire. This gives you one less thing to worry about in the spring.</p>	<p>Fall is a good time for cleaning up the down and dead wood in your yard, shelter belts, woodlots, and any dead and dry flowers and plants near your buildings and fences. These items can easily ignite from embers blown around by the wind from an advancing wildfire. Leaves piled up in roof valleys and eaves are another potential ignition point for airborne embers.</p>	<p>Check power lines and poles for proximity to trees and branches, as well as rot and need for replacement. Many wildfires are caused by downed power lines contacting trees or trees and branches falling on to power lines. Contact your local utility provider with any concerns.</p>

For further information refer to [Farm and Acreage: a guide to reducing the risk from wildfire](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/farm-and-acreage-a-guide-to-reducing-the-risk-from-wildfire) (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/farm-and-acreage-a-guide-to-reducing-the-risk-from-wildfire>). This guide provides information for farmers and residents on acreages to assist in reducing the risk from wildfire. Topics covered include: fire permits, safe use of burn barrels and burning of grass, stubble, piles and windrows, building a FireSmart home, preventing wildfires caused by off-highway vehicles, fall and winter wildfire prevention, farm, ranch, and woodlot practices for wildfire prevention, evacuation planning, and wildfire insurance.

Farm Safety: What can you do in 5 minutes?

Take 5!

Many of us think we don't have time for safety, or we may feel overwhelmed when we look at the requirements of a farm safety program. One approach to overcome this may be to try to dedicate 5-10 minutes a day. In that way, we can take many small steps over time until we have a lot of safety measures in place. Here are just a few examples of what can be done in 5-10 minutes:

1. If you decant chemicals (transfer from a large container to a smaller one for day to day use), take a minute to label them. Egg wash and One spray are a couple of common chemicals that you might have lying around. They don't look like much but can be quite dangerous if mistaken for something else. AgSafe has great labels available that can assist with this.



2. Take a few minutes to check your fire extinguishers. Have they expired? Do you have the right types in the right locations? Replace and acquire as needed.

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Class of Fire	Description
Class A	Fires in ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics.
Class B	Fires in flammable liquids, combustible liquids, petroleum greases, tars, oils, oil-based paints, solvents, lacquers, alcohols, and flammable gases.
Class C	Fires that involve energized electrical equipment.
Class D	Fires in combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium.
Class K	Fires in cooking appliances that involve combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal oils and fats).

3. Take a few minutes to check your first aid kit and stock up if anything has been used. Or, take 5 to create a log for your first aid kit to note when anything has been removed and needs to be replaced. (A list of requirements is available in your Farm Safety Producer Manual or by contacting the office).

4. Gather up your SDS sheets and put them in a folder that is easily accessible by all workers. Write up a quick list of all the SDS sheets in the folder. Even a post it note on the folder will work!



*These are all great examples of small things that can be done in 5-10 minutes. What can you do if you **"Take 5"**?*

For the next month EFA will be collecting stories from producers on safety measures they have put in place. Share your story by emailing jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca or by posting on the Producer Portal Forum under 'Farm Safety Planning->Peer to Peer Discussion on Farm Safety'. All producers who submit a story will be entered into a draw to win a prize.

Healthy Birds

Serology Lab Section Opens at the University of Calgary

The four feather boards and the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine UCVM) are pleased to announce that the new Serology laboratory section opened on Monday, October 16, 2023. The lab will initially receive Avian samples only for the following diseases: Newcastle disease virus (NDV), avian reovirus (REO), infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), avian encephalomyelitis (AE) and infectious bursal disease (IBD).



This milestone for further expansion of the Diagnostics Services Unit (DSU) would not have been possible without the support and funding from the four Alberta Poultry Boards and the hard work and persistence of the DSU staff. Dr. Ashish Gupta (poultry pathologist) and Dr. Manga Devi (serology technician) have worked extensively to open the serology lab section to poultry clients. We are excited as they continue to develop and expand the service to other tests.

Please stay tuned for announcements regarding future testing and DSU expansion. We are pleased to work with the UCVM to continue to strengthen poultry diagnostics in Alberta.

Commonly occurring Animal Care Program Corrective Action Requests

There has been a recent increase in the number of Animal Care Program Corrective Action Requests (CAR). Egg Farmers of Alberta along with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) would like to provide a friendly reminder to producers on the following elements which have had commonly occurring CARs.

1. **Loose birds** – Please ensure that any loose birds have been caught and placed back in the housing system. A loose bird results in one to several CARs.
2. **Water tests** – Must be completed within 365 days of the previous test and include total and faecal coliforms. If the results demonstrate that your levels of coliforms exceed the drinking water limits, there must be a corrective action taken and recorded.
3. **Housing measurement form** – For producers with alternative housing systems (enriched/aviary/single tier) you need to ensure you have your housing measurement form in addition to the hen housing certificate. Both hen housing certificates and measurement forms are available on the producer portal.

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4. **Pullet flock history certificate** – There is a **new two-page pullet flock history certificate** that any pullet grower rearing pullets must use for a laying hen purchaser after May 1, 2023. The content on both pages relate to multiple Animal Care Program audit elements, particularly for the Handling, Catching, Loading statement and it is important to have both pages to avoid multiple CARs.
5. **Exterior doors** - All exterior doors must have a biosecurity sign or yellow biosecurity sticker on them.
6. **Ammonia testing** – Producers need to ensure that when they are testing ammonia levels in the barn, the test strips used are not expired and distilled water is used during testing. If you have an automated ammonia monitor, please make sure you are testing at the height of the bird.
7. **Lux testing (lighting)** – Producers should try their best to obtain access to a lux meter to verify average readings for the barn. If lighting must be reduced, rationale must be recorded in the corrective action log. EFC has communicated that if feather pecking has happened, adjusting lighting is not the first acceptable response but rather other options such as consultation with a nutritionist or veterinarian must occur first.
8. **Emergency depopulation plan** - The emergency depopulation method must be different than the routine depopulation method. For example, if a producer does whole barn gassing as their routine method of depopulation, they must pick a different emergency depopulation method (ex: MAK cart) and have an associated Standard Operating Procedure.

Dietary Fibre in Laying Hens: A Review of the Effects - Webinar Recording

Did you know that adding fibre to a laying hen's diet may help curb feather and toe pecking issues? This is one of the many benefits Dr. Rene Kwakkel highlights in Egg Farmers of Alberta's (EFA) recent Dietary Fibre in Laying Hens: A Review of the Effects Webinar. If you were unable to attend the live webinar on October 13th, please visit the Webinars and Eggbites section under the Learning and Education section on the producer portal to view the recording.

A big thank you to Dr. Kwakkel for taking the time to share his knowledge with the Alberta egg industry!



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Healthy Eggs

Serotyping of Salmonella Tests

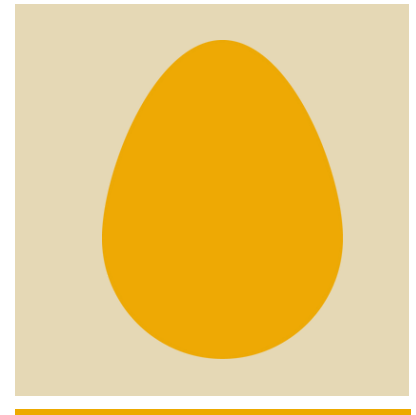
In late 2020 the CFIA communicated that in the event of a Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) positive they would recall all eggs back to the date of the test. A consequence of this was a change to how testing is conducted for EFA samples at the Government of Alberta lab. Effective April 2021, the culture (serotyping) process was temporarily suspended. This was to avoid the delays with culture and the risk of sending eggs to market based on a PCR result and then subsequently receiving a culture positive (ex. a PCR false negative). This resulted in a gap in data on which strains are circulating in Alberta and how their prevalence is changing. This is concerning as we have previously used this data to act when there have been outbreaks in other jurisdictions or to confirm that eggs are not a source when there is a Salmonella outbreak in Alberta related to other Salmonella serotypes.

In recognition of the above challenges, EFA and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation set out to develop a solution to resume serotyping without the risk of recall.

Effective October 23rd, 2023, a delayed serotyping process has been implemented. Serotyping will be conducted at 100 weeks after the youngest flock's hatch date. Since flocks are not currently kept longer than 90 weeks of age and eggs have a 6-week expiration date, birds will have been depopulated, barns cleaned, and eggs consumed and/or disposed of by the time the results are received.

Producers should be aware that given the delay in receiving the serotype results these will not be emailed routinely to avoid confusion. If your initial notice indicates that you are SE negative but Salmonella positive, you can request to receive the serotype results when available. EFA will be sharing aggregate data and statistics on the producer portal annually.

If you have any questions about this change in Salmonella testing and reporting procedures, please contact Jenna Griffin at 403-250-1197 x. 129 or jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca.



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Healthy Communities



Marketing Highlights

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

Calgary Baby and Tot Show

EFA participated in the Fall Baby & Tot show in Calgary on October 28th and 29th. We had good interactions at our booth and gave away our Spiced Cherry Buckle Cake recipe cards, along with other brochures related to babies and eggs.



New Collaboration!

EFA is happy to announce a collaboration with the restaurant, Egg & Spoon. This breakfast and brunch restaurant is located in Calgary, Alberta, on Macleod Trail. Stay tuned to watch for more details on this!



Calgary Hitmen

EFA has dedicated a page on our website regarding our continued partnership with the Calgary Hitmen. You can find all the information at <https://eggs.ab.ca/calgary-hitmen/>.



New Blog!

Learn how Green Acres Colony has invested in solar farming - <https://eggs.ab.ca/about-us/efa-blog/egg-farm-invests-in-solar-farming/>.



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