

EggNotes

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Murray Minchin
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

Regular Office Hours
November 11 - Remembrance Day, Office Closed

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: November 12, 2021

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



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Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- ▶ Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors recently completed our annual strategic planning session with EFA management, to determine the priority areas of focus for next year. We identified pertinent issues and discussed the topics that matter most to Alberta egg farmers, then established targets for EFA and the provincial egg industry to work towards. The staff will now build and implement their 2022 Operational Plan around our four key result areas – healthy birds, healthy eggs, healthy farms, and healthy communities – to ensure the goals set by the Board will be achieved.

The Board appreciates the dedication and enthusiasm of the EFA staff. Our collaborative approach and shared commitment are vital to supporting a thriving egg industry that will be sustainable for future generations of Alberta egg farming families.

▶ CTV's Fields to Forks Campaign

EFA proudly partnered with CTV's Fields to Forks initiative this year. It brought us a wonderful opportunity to showcase the importance of the egg industry in providing Albertans with food from our fields to their forks. Check out the videos and interviews here:

- **Susan Schafers Video:** <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2285702>
- **CTV Edmonton Interview with Susan Schafers & David Webb:** <https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2295171&jwsourc=cl>
- **CTV Calgary Interview & Cooking Demo:** <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2297475&jwsourc=cl>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 18,** Production Management Committee Meeting
- October 21,** Securing Your Farm & The Egg Industry Webinar
- October 26,** Colony Elders Meeting
- October 26-27,** EFA Board Meeting
- November 7,** Quota Leasing Pool Applications for the 2022/2023 pool go out
- November 9 & 10,** EFC Meeting
- November 11,** Purchase Deadline for Quota Exchange
- November 11,** Office Closed - Remembrance Day



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Healthy Birds



► **Biosecurity Assessments 2021 - Quarter Three Update**

Heading into the fourth quarter, Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) field service coordinators only have four outstanding biosecurity assessments to complete.

During this last quarter Alberta egg producers have been working to increase their biosecurity and security. More producers are putting up biosecurity or no trespassing signs and locking their farm barriers (if they have one) and barns when they are not present and at night. For more updates view the biosecurity statistics on the producer website at Biosecurity Assessment (Farm Programs).

► **UCVM Hires Poultry Pathologist**

The Diagnostics Services Unit (DSU) at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), with funding from Alberta's four poultry boards, has hired Dr. Ana da Silva as a sessional poultry pathologist. Dr. da Silva will be on site at the DSU to perform poultry post-mortems on Mondays and Thursdays starting September 16, 2021. She will also perform microscopic examination on tissues from field post-mortems.

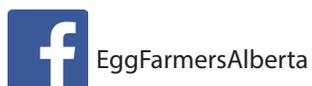
Dr. da Silva is originally from Brazil and brings a wealth of avian knowledge in virology and poultry diagnostics. She completed her DVM, Residency in Microbiology and Infectious Disease, and a Master's in Animal Science in Brazil before moving to California. She then completed a PhD at UC Davis in 2019, researching the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) and genetic resistance to infectious bronchitis virus in chickens. Prior to moving to Calgary, Dr. da Silva pursued a Residency in Avian Medicine at the Turlock branch of the California Animal Health & Food Safety system. The DSU and the Alberta poultry industry are excited to welcome Dr. da Silva.

Dr. da Silva's sessional contract runs until November 30, 2021 with the possibility of extension. It is part of a new partnership with poultry industries in Alberta, which also includes extended specimen receiving hours at the DSU. Poultry cases received outside of Dr. da Silva's regular schedule will still be processed by the on-duty DSU pathologist with Dr. da Silva available for consultation as needed.

For more information, please contact the DSU at dsu@ucalgary.ca or call (403) 220-2806.

► **Fact Sheet on Wildlife Management Practices to Prevent Avian Influenza**

A fact sheet from the United States Department of Agriculture on the prevention of avian influenza using simple wildlife management practices has been added to the producer website. Visit Avian Influenza (Healthy Birds) for tips and tricks on how you can reduce wildlife attractants.



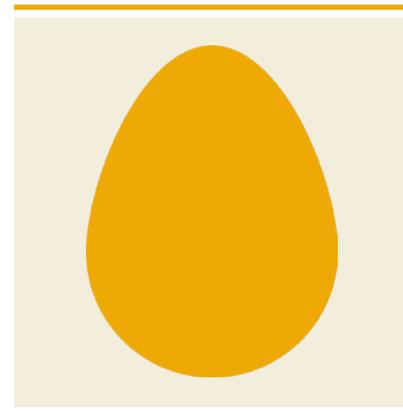
➤ Euthanasia Workshop Resources

Egg Farmers of Alberta has uploaded the resources shared at the euthanasia workshops in July to the producer website. These resources include the updated euthanasia manual, presentation, and individual bird euthanasia SOPs (cervical dislocation, blunt force trauma, decapitation, and MAK carts). To access these documents, visit Humane Endings (Healthy Birds) and stay tuned for the new euthanasia e-learning module coming soon.

Healthy Eggs

➤ Pest Management Section of the Producer Website

The Pest Management section of the producer website has been updated with new information and resources. Did you know that 1 adult mouse can have up to 80 offspring a year! Visit Pest Management (Healthy Eggs) to learn more about the different kinds of pests and how you can develop a robust pest control program.



Healthy Farms

➤ PEFIP Update

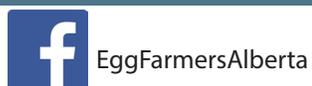
The Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) is live and open for producers to submit project funding applications. All applications must be submitted and managed via the PEFIP website, after producers have successfully registered. EFA sent producers a PEFIP toolkit in mid-June, which included a step-by-step guide with screen-shots, to help walk producers through both the registration and application process.



If producers are having trouble registering or submitting an application, please contact David Webb at the EFA office, or contact the PEFIP customer service center directly. Various options for contacting them are available on the 'Contact information' tab of the PEFIP website (<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/poultry-and-egg-farm-investment-program/contact-information>).

Now that the PEFIP has been running a few months, EFA would like to hear from producers that have successfully submitted a project funding application that has been approved for PEFIP funding.

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This will allow EFA to maintain a list of the types of projects that are being approved, which is a common question from Alberta egg farmers. EFA will be able to share this list via the producer website, to help all Alberta egg farmers make use of the funding available through the PEFIP.

Please contact David Webb at the EFA office to share your PEFIP success stories.

➤ **PIC's Poultry Virtual Innovation Conference**

The Poultry Industry Council (PIC) is hosting their Poultry Virtual Innovation Conference on November 18 - 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST each day. Cost to register for members is \$55 and non-members is \$80.00. Topics will include feed, ammonia reduction, pre-hatch sexing, alternative manure combustion systems, innovative barn designs, and much more! To register, please visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ei6a7mgy738489f9&oseq=&c=&ch=> or contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or (403)-250-1197 x 125.

➤ **Requirements for Confined Feeding Operations**

Know your AOPA permit conditions

What's in your permit? The terms and conditions are a key part of any permit under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) and it's important that owners and operators of confined feeding operations (CFOs) are familiar with them.

Terms and conditions can include such requirements as the maximum number of permitted animals, construction specifications, and manure spreading requirements, to name a few. For some grandfathered CFOs, municipal permits may also contain conditions. For permits issued by the NRCB, your permit conditions can be found in your permit, with explanations in the decision summary document. Both permit and decision summary are included in the binder you received when the NRCB issued the decision on your permit application.

It is your responsibility as the owner of a CFO to adhere to conditions detailed in your permit. Failure to do so can result in enforcement action by the NRCB. For more information, or to confirm the conditions of your AOPA permit, please contact an NRCB approval officer or inspector (<https://www.nrcb.ca/about/who-we-are/staff-listing>) at your regional NRCB field office (<https://www.nrcb.ca/about/field-office-service-areas>)

➤ **NRCB Compliance and Enforcement Resource**

The National Resource Conservation Board (NRCB) has released a compliance and enforcement resource which outlines their operating policy in relation to the Agricultural Operation Practices Act. To review this document visit the producer website at Manure (Healthy Farms).



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► **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Farm Technology Program**

The new Farm Technology Program supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, and encourages the adoption of best management practices in farm security. This program provides financial incentives on new technologies that are commercially available and already demonstrated under Alberta conditions.

There are two streams available to producers under the Farm Technology program: farm technology and farm security. To be eligible for funding, the program targets technology that is proven, but not yet widely adopted within an applicant's farm type.

The Farm Technology stream supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste and optimizes farm efficiency, including:

- Digital sensors that contribute to greater precision and more accurate matching of inputs with requirements
- Panel readers that enable livestock producers to log weights digitally
- Devices that boost internet coverage on the farm

The Farm Security stream supports producers in their efforts to secure business assets. This program will help farmers protect their operations by supporting investments in farm security best management practices, including:

- GPS equipment trackers that can monitor equipment locations
- Remote monitoring cameras for rural security

To be eligible to apply for this program, the applicant must be a primary producer and have a current Environmental Farm Plan, or complete one before the end of the project term.

Eligible expenses for approved projects are funded to a maximum of \$48,000 per applicant for the Farm Technology stream over the course of the program, and \$2000 per applicant for the Farm Security stream over the course of the program. Eligible expenses will be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% applicant.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a 5-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that began in April 2018. In Alberta, it represents a federal-provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector.

For more information about the Canadian Agricultural Partnership in Alberta visit cap.alberta.ca or email cap.farmtech@gov.ab.ca



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➤ Safety Minute - Remote Work/Work Alone

From AgSafe Alberta

While there are some exemptions for farms under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, keep in mind that farm vehicles are not exempt from safety. Regardless of if you are hauling something on your own property or on a public road, ensure that the load cannot leak, spill, blow off, fall from, fall through, or shift in a way that may affect the stability or travel of the vehicle.

When hauling loads on public roads, it is important to follow all applicable traffic safety and load securement laws and regulations. Many counties in Alberta are recognizing and trying to address the confusion surrounding the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, load securement, and how it applies to farmers. Your county office may be able to offer guidance on the subject or put you in contact with a Community Peace Officer who enforces the Traffic Safety Act.

Some helpful tips include:

- Using the right type and amount of securement equipment
- Only using tiedowns that are marked with the Working Load Limit
- Pre-inspecting tie downs for damage or defects and removing any faulty strap

Keep in mind securing loads isn't always about big trucks it is also about what is in the back of your pick-up truck. Even garbage going to the dump needs to be secured, don't just put something heavy on top and hope it stays there. If you have any questions about safety on your farm, reach out to AgSafe Alberta at info@agsafeab.ca or 403-219-7901.

➤ Your Premise Identification Number (PID)

Premises Identification (PID) links livestock and poultry to specific land locations and types of agricultural operations. Premises identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management planning. PID Numbers are required or asked for on many transportation documents when transporting your animals. They are also required when buying medications at a licensed retail outlet. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements. The system has a variety of uses including planning for, controlling, and preventing the spread of an animal disease. It is also used to notify animal owners of an impending emergency, such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals.

Having an up-to-date PID Account ensures that you will be contacted in the case of an animal emergency situation. EFA makes every effort to work with Alberta Agriculture to ensure accurate PID information for registered Alberta egg producers however, **it is ultimately the producer's responsibility to keep information up-to-date. Ideally, you should update your information within 30 days of any change.** This includes changes to contact information, animal types, maximum capacity, etc. You can update your information in one of two ways:

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1) You can update your account yourself online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises. Click the “Apply or Sign-In Online” button to log-in and access your account.

2) An account can be updated using a paper application form, which can be obtained from ARD Field Offices throughout Alberta or Authorized Medicine Retailers. You can also call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM to request a form be mailed or faxed to you or you can print it from ARD’s Ropin’ the Web at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

Your information is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) and the Animal Health Act (AHA). It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, in accordance with the AHA, for the purposes set out in the AHA including to plan for or respond to an animal health emergency or to validate premises information held in the system.

Healthy Communities

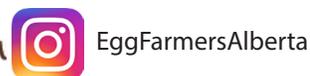
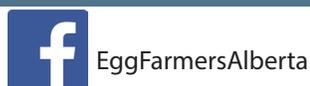
▶ Quarter Three Research Report Update

The quarter three research update is available on the producer website and can be found at Research (Information Center). Owing to COVID-19 many of the funding research projects have been delayed.

However, the precision feeding project has provided Egg Farmers of Alberta with some preliminary results on body weight and egg production for their project. Currently, the researchers are seeing a pattern which indicates birds fed ad libitum on a high metabolizing energy diet may enter lay earliest. To learn more about these intermediate results visit the Research section of the producer website.

▶ EFA Processor Policy

EFA is responsible for licensing processors (graders and breakers) to operate in the province, under the Plan Regulation (258/97). EFA recently updated its licensing & exemption policy for processors and the revised version of OPP #10.2 is available on the EFA Policies page (Information Center) of the producer website. The most significant change is that this policy now applies to all processors, whether or not they grade their own eggs or grade other producers’ eggs.



► **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.

► **Local Food and Farms Campaign for October**

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 October, we will be focusing on the reasons we are thankful for eggs including Alberta egg farmers. Thankful for farm fresh local eggs, for egg farming families, for a safe and healthy protein source, affordable nutrition and sustainable on-farm practices. Follow us on social to check out these reasons in detail.

