October 2023 Newsletter



Board of Directors

Chair: Vice Chair: EFC Director: EFC Alternate: Director: Director: Director in Training:

Peter Waldner 403-795-8621 Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998 Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297 Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501 Elie Hofer 780-691-8512 John Hofer 403-363-0393 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 Office Hours

Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

EFA Staff

Stephen Scott

• General Manager, 587-391-6124 / ext.124

David Webb

- Marketing & Comm. Manager, 587-391-6126 / ext.126
- Tate O'Dwyer
- Marketing & Comm. Coordinator, 587-391-6122/ ext.122

Jenna Griffin

• Manager Programs & Research, 587-391-6129 /ext.129

Carley Frerichs

- Farm Programs Coordinator, 587-391-6125 / ext.125
- Laurel Martin
- Office Manager, 587-391-6105 / ext.105

Andrea Bieganek

• Admin Support Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

Brandy Addai

• Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.128

Reshma Kurian

• Financial Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.121

Erin Johnston

• Farm Services Administrator, 587-391-6127 / ext.127 Kari Buijs

• Business Manager, 587-391-6123 / ext.123

Dave Lastiwka

• Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin

• Fields Services Coordinator, 403-830-3447

Egg Price Update Effective July 16, 2023

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen
А	Extra Large	2.970
А	Large	2.970
А	Medium	2.670
А	Small	2.310
А	Nest Run	2.796
А	Pee Wee	0.270 _
В		0.760 _
С		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: tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: November 17, 2023

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



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After Hours Response Line: 368-996-3447
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



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors have recently attended meetings designed to enhance our understanding of critical egg industry issues, while gaining a broader perspective about how these issues impact various stakeholders. The entire Board attended the International Egg Commission's (IEC) annual Global Leadership Conference, which was hosted in Lake Louise. Directors also recently attended a United Egg Producers (UEP) meeting in California. Hearing from and engaging with industry leaders from the United States and across the globe, helps ensure the Board's strategic approach to the future of egg farming in Alberta is as well-informed as possible.

Director Development Program

Egg Farmers of Alberta implemented the Director Development Program (DDP) to engage the membership and stimulate Board succession planning. A Board-appointed registered producer may participate in EFA Board meetings as a non-voting Director, to gain exposure to how the EFA Board operates, and to become more familiar with various topics that are critical to the egg industry.

Any farmer interested in applying must submit a letter of interest, explaining why they might like to be an EFA Director. Any potential applicants from a Hutterite Colony must also provide written authorization from their elders, as required. The letter must be submitted to the EFA Board office, to the attention of the Board Manager, by February 1st, 2024.

The EFA Board will review all submitted letters of intent at the first Board meeting following the Board's organizational meeting and may choose to appoint a producer to the DDP for a period of 1 year. If you would like to learn more about the DDP, please contact any of the current EFA Directors or Stephen Scott, EFA's General Manager.

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to September 9th, which is period 9 for 2023. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.1 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 3.5% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending August 12th), and a 3.6% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2022.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are even over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, currently sitting at 40.6 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 0.9% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 35.3 million dozen eggs (87.1% 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 portal.









AI Update

As of the time of publication, there are 3 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 7 total cases as of October 11, 2023. Now is the time to remain extra vigilant to help mitigate further spread of AI.

Research Committee Article

At the last research committee meeting we reviewed the research available related to wildfires. As we are seeing more natural disasters, including the fires that burned throughout Alberta and British Columbia, we need to understand more about the effects on poultry and how we can mitigate these risks. The last few years, and this year in particular, have been terrible for smoke-related issues, starting very early in the spring and continuing on through to this fall. The air quality index numbers in the news and weather forecasts this spring/summer have often been in the high risk to very high risk ranges (8-10+). Air quality in these dangerous ranges affect not just people with the mixtures of particles and gasses, but also the poultry in our care. Severe wildfire smoke exposure to poultry can result in air sacculitis (infection of the air sacs), cyanosis (blue skin colouration from lack of oxygen), and unexplained increases in death.

Smoke irritation can affect the birds both in the barn and during transportation. If you see the following signs, consider contacting your poultry veterinarian:

- Difficulty breathing, including open beak breathing and increased noise when breathing
- Eye irritation and excessive watering
- Inflammation of the throat
- · Increased breathing rate
- Fatigue or weakness
- Disorientation or stumbling
- Reduced appetite and/or thirst

When there is poor air quality and/or increased temperatures, consider delaying delivery. If you must deliver during difficult conditions, check your weather and air quality forecasts and review road closures. Be sure to plan alternate routes and try to minimize stops. EFA has created a full report to provide ideas and practical guidance on how to deal with poor air quality due to wildfire smoke during transportation. We look forward to reviewing future research that will acknowledge and fill the gaps around the effects of wildfire smoke on poultry.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

October 28-29 | Calgary Baby & Tot Show October 31 | Halloween November 1-2 | EFA Board Meeting November 2 | Colony Elders Meeting November 5 | 2024/2025 Quota Leasing Pool Launched November 13 | Office closed in lieu of Remembrance Day November 27 | 2023 Quota Leasing Pool - Forms Due





EggFarmersAlberta







Healthy Farms

Farm Safety Workshop Learning Module Now Available

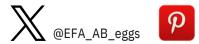
Participating in farm safety education and programming is crucial for reducing the risks associated with farming. As a friendly reminder, the revised Farm Safety assessment asks for 3 AgSafe learning courses to be completed. Please see the table below for more info.



AgSafe Alberta EFA Year 1 Learning Overview	 High level overview Covered at EFA in person workshops in July <i>Now available online</i> for those who were unable to attend in person 	Fige Farmers of Alberta Year 1 workshophttps://www.agsafea bseed.ca/course/egg -farmers-of-alberta- year-1-workshopTwo were unable to attend the in-person Year 1 workshop in ter area.ree
Year 1 EFA Farm Safety Risk Assessment Learning Component	 Includes FarmSafe Plan Training Modules of Hazard Assessment, Hazard Controls, and Emergency Response and Preparedness These have been packaged up on the AgSafe seed platform and customized for Alberta egg producers 	Year 1 Egg Farmers of Alberta Farm Safety Risk Assessment Learning Component https://www.agsafeab seed.ca/course/year- 1-egg-safety-risk- assessment This course provides the required modules for the new Farm Safety Risk Assessments being completed by the EFA. Free
WHMIS	All of the people performing work in the egg facility should complete a general WHMIS course that has been documented. If you do not already have documented WHMIS training, you can complete it for free using the code EFA2023	https://www.agsafeabseed.ca/cour se/whmis-2015-pesticide- veterinary-drug-and-medicated- feed-awareness-course

Article continued on next page ...









We are hopeful that these online modules will offer you the flexibility to engage at a time that works best for you and that they will be an engaging way to support you in your learning efforts. When these courses are completed, a certificate will be generated which can be shown to EFA Field Coordinators to receive credit on the associated questions of the Farm Safety Assessment.

PEEP Update



The revised PEEP assessment was launched in January 2023 to support producers in monitoring and improving farm sustainability performance, while preparing for expanded commercial requirements related to sustainability. The following is a summary of the progress and statistics to date.

- 98 assessments have been completed to date, representing 95 producers. (Some producers may have more than one land location or barn with separate PEEP assessments).
- 40 producers (41%) scored 100% (provided all data requested)
- 5 producers that participated did not provide sufficient data to pass (scored <60%)
- The average score for participants is 81%

Energy

- For alternative energy sources, 3 farms reported solar, 1 wind, and 1 co-generator
- 52 producers (55%) provided actual or estimated electricity usage.
- 47 producers (49%) provided actual or estimated natural gas usage.

Feed and Water

- All but 2 producers (98%) who completed an assessment provided water consumption per flock cycle, including actual or estimated wash water consumption
- All but 2 producers (98%) who completed an assessment provided feed consumption data



Manure

- 91 assessments (96%) provided the mass of manure removed:
 - 17 (19%) estimated based on book value calculations
 - 74 (81%) used a weigh scale to provide measured mass
- 89 assessments (94%) provided the breakdown of percent of manure to each end use destination.

As we are able to conduct more analysis on the data, we will provide additional detail about the numbers reported (in aggregate). In reviewing the data, there is the most room for improvement to increase percent of data collected in 2024 in the area of energy (electricity and natural gas). This is a challenge for many producers who may not have a sub meter on their layer barn.

A submeter is an electricity meter or gas meter that is installed downstream of the main utility meter to get a more specific understanding of energy consumption. In a farm scenario, these are typically installed to measure consumption directly related to a specific type of production like, in our case, egg production. Energy directed to residences, shops, or anything unrelated to lay production, pullet rearing, or poultry can be excluded. Given they measure the energy flowing to a specific space (ex. lay facility), the information that they collect allows you to see how your equipment is performing over time. Spikes in demand, when not weather related, can indicate a piece of equipment is drawing more energy than typical and that it may need maintenance – this can save you a lot of money in the long run! Do you know how changes in your ventilation settings impact your energy bill and the return on investment of your poultry operation?

There are many kinds of submeters ranging from very basic non-logging meters, to tamper proof meters used for billing purposes, to very complex power analyzing meters that can show you minute by minute spikes in demand. The price range is just as vast with basic meters priced from less than \$100 to \$1,000 (some come with all required attachments while others will need additional current and voltage transformers) to more complex meters going as high as \$6,000.

Even the cheapest of the basic non-logging meters can help you understand your daily, weekly, monthly, or annual barn energy consumption. These units display the current power used or accumulate total power consumption until they are reset. You can reset them to your desired interval or log the number at various intervals as needed (ex. annually, for the purposes of PEEP).

It all comes back to that famous saying, "you can't manage what you don't measure"!



Funding Sources for Energy Submeters

The Poultry and Egg On Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) aims to help supply-managed poultry and egg producers adapt to market changes resulting from the implementation of recent international trade agreements. The program supports on-farm investments that increase efficiency or productivity, improve environmental sustainability, and respond to consumer preferences. PEFIP funding could be used toward the purchase and/or installation of energy submeters.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) Farm Technology Program has two streams. The Farm Technology Stream supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency and results in the digitalization of an operation and sensors for the purpose of data collection. Many components of 'Smart systems features' are eligible such as digital sensors, data collection, connectivity, automated data analysis, and efficiency improvement. **Internet boosters are also eligible up to a maximum of \$2,000.**

Connect with the Farm Technology Program team: Toll free: <u>310-FARM</u> (3276) (in Alberta) Email: <u>s-cap.ftp@gov.ab.ca</u>

Supporting Producers with Farm Programs (an EggNotes article from your PMC)

Results from the last customer service survey showed an increased frustration regarding the record keeping that is required. This was discussed at the last PMC meeting. While we do understand there is more documentation that is required almost yearly, it needs to be remembered that the SC-SC[™] and Animal Care Program (ACP) are National programs and every Canadian egg farmer needs to have this in place, not just Alberta. EFC has made a commitment to continuous improvement, and even though the PMC is able to provide input to these changes on behalf of Alberta producers, the staff and board can't change any new requirements once they have been approved by EFC. EFA is tasked with the responsibility to make sure that our producers are meeting these standards. To that end, they are working diligently by providing training, workshops, one-on-one coaching, and by continuously adding templates, examples (of how to fill out these templates), and other useful information to the producer portal to help producers with their record keeping.



With the updates to the SC-SC[™] and ACP last year to align with the code of practice, a number of new elements are now needed to pass the programs (e.g., emergency plan), On farm depopulation plan for Emergency Situations, and the Biosecurity plan. Once completed, these do not need to be rewritten every year. They can be kept on file and the following year, they need to be reviewed, updated only if necessary, signed and dated. For the most part, elements like these will require minimal effort on the part of the producer. There are fillable PDF templates that can be downloaded from the portal or are available from the office by request. There are some sections that are filled in already, but most of the information needs to be tailored to each specific farm.

Last year's AI outbreak also demonstrated that having documentation for depopulation and disposal plans and related SOPs in place will not only alleviate producer stress and help get back into production as quickly as possible, it will also help contain the disease and minimize the disruption to the supply chain, should AI ever come onto our farms. EFA has made a number of resources available to help producers develop these documents for their operations.

Any industry that wants to be successful needs to be committed to keep improving on worker safety, food safety, animal care, their environmental footprint, and so on. This often leads to extra paperwork. With animal agriculture being under increasing scrutiny from activists and as our practices are being watched closer by our consumers, it requires such a commitment. Egg Farmers of Alberta is here to support producers and have them prepared for the future. If you have any questions about any of the record keeping requirements or some suggestions of how they could be improved, please reach out to the Board, staff, or the PMC.

Workers Compensation Board Statistics

The Workers Compensation Board monthly report and yearly synopsis (currently for 2022) is now available on the producer portal. To access these documents visit the 'Farm Safety' heading under 'Farm Programs'.

Classified Ads

- Camelina meal for sale. 35% crude protein, 14.5% fat. High in Omega-3. \$400/ton. If interested, contact Paul Sinclair by email paul@kettlepondfarms.com or call 306-331-0045.
- Selling an older egg packer that has been well used and needs some TLC. If interested, please contact Paul Hofer (Evergreen Colony) at 403-359-4178 or email layer@evergreencolony.com



Healthy Birds

Free Range Standards and Certification Program

On July 11, 2023, Egg Farmers of Canada's Board of Directors approved a Free Range Standards and Certification program. The objective of these standards was to provide consistency across Canada on what requirements must be met to be considered free range.

The Free Range Standards will be added to the Revised Animal Care Program on July 1, 2024 as an option for eligible producers wishing to become Free Range Certified. Producers (including those in organic production) wishing to obtain their Free Range Certification will need to meet specific requirements and undergo a Free Range Standards audit. Producers with a range that do not wish to participate in the Free Range Standards will be considered free run and will not be issued a Free Range Certificate. These farms will not fail the Revised Animal Care Program or have their EQA™ certification impacted. If you are interested in more information on the requirements for the Free Range Standards audit, please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 125.

Should This Bird Be Loaded Resource

The Should This Bird Be Loaded resource originally developed by Poultry Industry Council has been updated by Egg Farmers of Alberta to include the euthanasia elements from the Revised Animal Care Program. A copy of this resource can be found on the producer portal under Learning and Education. EFA is also happy to provide this resource in laminated poster format for any producers that would like it. Please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x 125 if you are interested in receiving a poster.







@EFA_AB_eggs





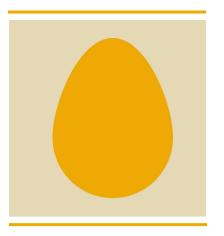


Healthy Eggs

Amendments to Start-Clean Stay-Clean® Program

Egg Farmers of Canada has released their 2024 amendments to the Start Clean-Stay Clean® Programs. The following changes have been made and will be in effect as of **January 1, 2024**:

1. Water Treatment Requirements



The Start Clean-Stay Clean® Program outlines that the water supply may be sourced from uncontaminated surface, ground, or municipal

sources. The Farmer Guidelines further indicate that surface water sources must be protected from surface runoff of fields that have had pesticides, fertilizers, or manure applied. The SC-SC[™] Program requires an annual water test for total coliforms and faecal coliforms and provides information on water treatment; however, treating the water supply was not previously mandated.

The SC-SC[™] Layer and Pullet Farmer Guidelines has been amended to include the requirement as follows: Surface water poses a risk of introduction of pathogens and biological hazards. Should the water supply be sourced from surface water, all water used in the production unit for consumption or otherwise must be *treated to ensure no pathogens or biological hazards are present*. Water used for the administration of vaccines may require additional steps, developed in consultation with a veterinarian or vaccination specialist.

2. Pest Control Requirements

The SC-SC[™] Program mandates the implementation of an effective integrated pest management program to prevent and minimize biological contamination in the production unit.

To strengthen the pest control section, repetitive elements were combined, more details was given, and clarification was provided. Below are the new pest control elements, effective January 1, 2024.

- Rodent monitoring program implemented
 - Using live, mechanical or other traps (4 pts)
 - Traps are strategically and effectively placed at points of entry/openings in production unit (4pts)
 - Traps are serviced weekly (2 pts)



- Rodent control program implemented
 - Continuously or as needed (2pts)
 - If needed, bait must be in bait stations and bait stations must be inaccessible to the birds and non-target animals. Moist or spoiled bait should be replaced with fresh bait (2 pts)
 - Bait is checked monthly (2 pts)

Pest control records are available with the number of rodent traps and location, number of rodent bait stations and locations, map locations of traps and bait stations, types of pesticides used, amounts used, Pest Control Product (PCP) number, and pest activity (4 pts) *NOTE: The additional record keeping requirements (type, amount and PCP number of pesticides) will be added to the EFA record keeping calendars*

- Fly monitoring program implemented
 - Using monthly monitoring through visual or physical (fly strips, traps, black lights or other) records (2 pts)
 - Continuously or as needed (2 pts)
- Wild bird monitoring program implemented
 - Monthly checks for visual signs of wild birds recorded (4 pts)
- Pest control program is effective and there are no visible infestation of rodents, flies, wild birds, or other pests (5 pts)

3. Egg Gathering/Packing Services

The previous requirements of the SC-SC[™] Program focused on ensuring that the egg collection system remained free from various types of accumulations, pests, and maintenance issues. However, there was no specific mention of the condition and characteristics of egg gathering or packing surfaces.

A general element valued at 1 point was added to the SC-SC[™] Layer Program to require that egg gathering/packing surfaces that **may be in direct contact with eggs** are in good repair, non-absorbent, non-toxic and can withstand repeated cleaning and sanitation.

4. Food Grade Grease and Oil

The SC-SC^M Farmer Guidelines stated that food grade grease and oil should be used for lubricating parts. However, this requirement was not included as a scored element on the SC-SC^M audit forms.

The following element was added to the SC-SC[™] Layer Program: Food grade grease and oil are used for parts requiring lubrication *that will be in contact with eggs.*



5. Refrigeration Requirement Following Egg Collection

Refrigerated storage is the critical control point of the Start Clean-Stay Clean® Program. The program outlines that it is important to cool eggs after collection to keep them fresh and prevent or reduce the growth of organisms, particularly Salmonella. The SC-SC[™] Program outlines that eggs must be gathered at least once daily with the intention of timely refrigeration however, a timeframe for placement into the cooler was not specified.

Therefore, the element has been amended to include the following: Collected eggs should be stored in the refrigeration unit **within 24 hours of collection**.

6. Humidity Recording Requirements

The requirement in the Start Clean-Stay Clean® Layer Program mandates that the humidity level in refrigerated storage must be below 85% within 24 hours, with corrective action needed if it exceeds this threshold. Daily recording of humidity levels was implemented on January 1, 2021.

This amendment is to add a requirement to record the <u>minimum-maximum</u> humidity levels in the refrigerated storage on a daily basis. This amendment aims to provide a more accurate assessment of whether the humidity exceeded 85% for over 24 hours or if it recovered within that timeframe. These fields will be added to the EFA record keeping calendars. If you need assistance sourcing a hygrometer that logs min and max, please contact Dave Lastiwka or Carley Frerichs. These meters are inexpensive and widely available.





Healthy Communities

Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) Regulations Expiry and Review

The Agricultural Operations Practices Act (AOPA) and its associated regulations apply to all agricultural operations in Alberta. The purpose of the Act is to "ensure that the province's livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner". Part one of the Act defines how nuisance issues such as odour, dust, noise, and smoke resulting from agricultural activities are addressed. Part two of the Act sets the permitting process for the construction or expansion of confined feeding operations. The Act outlines how affected parties and neighbours are consulted in the approval and review processes. The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) is responsible for delivering AOPA, permitting confined feeding operations, and addressing complaints regarding the management of manure on agricultural operations in Alberta.

AOPA has 4 associated regulations:

- Agricultural Operations, Part 0.1 and Part 1 Matters Regulation
- Agricultural Operations, Part 2 Matters Regulation
- Standards and Administration Regulation
- Agricultural Operation Practices Act Administrative Procedures Regulation

Two of the above four regulations (Part 2 Matters Regulation and the Standards and Administration Regulation) are set to expire June 30, 2025 and thus will undergo a review. A formal engagement will be initiated in 2024 with final recommendations for revision being submitted by early December, 2024.

In the lead up to the formal engagement, EFA and other livestock organizations are tasked with developing a list of items that industry feels may need to be addressed or updated during this review. We are asking any producers that have feedback on AOPA regulations that they would like to share, to contact Jenna Griffin at the EFA office at 403-250-1197 x.129 or jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca.





Terroir Symposium in Calgary

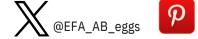
Egg Farmers of Canada sponsored a segment of this event on Monday, October 2, at the Jack Singer Concert Hall, where EFA's Vice Chair, Conrad Vanessen, spoke alongside Chef Matt Basile, about the future of food & sustainable food systems. Conrad also talked about how egg farming and the role of the farmer has transformed, alongside the culinary industry's own transformation, with sustainability being the key driver of change and progression. Well done, Conrad, for representing Canadian egg farmers!















<u> Marketing Highlights</u>

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



HAPPY WORLD EGG DAY!!



Today, October 13th, is a celebration and appreciation of all things eggs! Incorporate eggs into your meal today. A great choice for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. We love eggs!

EFA & Calgary Hitmen Partnership Renewal



EFA is proud to be an official partner of the Calgary Hitmen Hockey Club! Our *'Crack of the Game'* top hit of the game feature is back and will be featured at every home game, along with in-game trivia, video features, social media posts and concourse booth activations. *Go Hitmen Go!*

