

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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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
Director: John Hofer 403-363-0393
Director in Training: Marcella Van Stryland 403-784-3519

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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Murray Minchin
Fields Services Coordinator

EFA Office Hours
Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Egg Price Update Effective June 12, 2022

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.960	↑
A	Large	2.960	↑
A	Medium	2.660	↑
A	Small	2.300	↑
A	Nest Run	2.786	↑
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 10, 2022

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



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Board Update



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors recently completed our annual strategic planning session with EFA's management team. A significant discussion was had about the impact of Avian Influenza on not only the egg industry, but the EFA team as well. Strategic areas of focus for 2023 were prioritized, taking potential AI outbreaks into consideration, ensuring Board and staff expectations will be in alignment no matter what the future holds.

The staff will now build their 2023 Operational Plan around EFA's key result areas – healthy birds, healthy eggs, healthy farms, and healthy communities – with an overarching strategic imperative to implement initiatives to help progress EFA's sustainability strategy.

The Board recognizes how challenging this year has been for the entire egg industry, including both our fellow farmers and the EFA staff. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing effort by the staff to support impacted egg farmers and the poultry industry throughout the AI outbreak.

AgEx 2022

The Agricultural Excellence Conference (AgEx), presented by Farm Management Canada, is being hosted this year in Canmore, Alberta, from November 22-24 at the Canmore Coast Hotel. The event welcomes everyone from farmers to advisors, academia, agricultural organizations, private industry, and government representatives, to join and exchange expertise and insights to continue to position Canada's farmers for success through farm management excellence.

To learn more about the event or to register for AgEx 2022, please visit their website:
<https://account.canapii.com/events/agex2022>



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Avian Influenza (AI) Update

An early start to the fall migration season has unfortunately resulted in another wave of outbreaks of Avian Influenza in Alberta. As of the time of publication, there are currently 18 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 50 total confirmed cases (31 commercial poultry farms).

The Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIEMT) continues to work closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Chief Provincial Veterinarian's office, and industry partners, to efficiently manage each Infected Premise (IP) and mitigate the risk of further spread of AI in Alberta.

Together, we can minimize the impact of AI on the egg and poultry industry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 17**, Spark! Poultry Research Meeting
- October 19**, UEF-EFA Visioning Session
- October 20**, All Marketing Board and Commissions Meeting
- October 25-26**, Canadian Public Trust Summit
- November 2-3**, EFA Board Meeting
- November 3**, Colony Elders Meeting
- November 6**, 2023/2024 Quota Leasing Pool Launched.
Look for applications in your inbox
- November 7**, Production Management Committee Meeting
- November 10**, QE3 2022 Quota Exchange applications to purchase deadline
- November 28**, 2023/2024 Quota Leasing Pool applications deadline

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- October 28** - Redeveloped Animal Care Program



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-eggbiters>

Most recent webinar: Social Media 101



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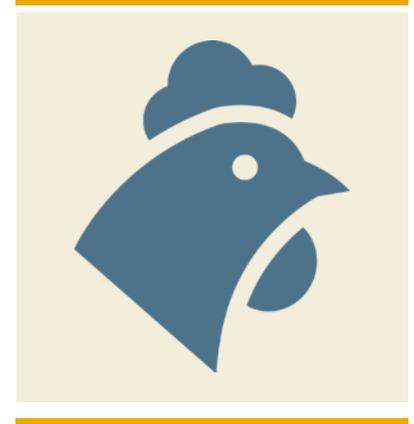
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Healthy Birds

Emergency Pullet Relocation Program (EPRP)

At the end of September, we launched the Emergency Pullet Relocation Program (EPRP) as a tool to relocate pullets displaced due to Avian Influenza. The purpose of the program is to place pullets that cannot be placed in their intended facilities elsewhere at the discretion of the EFA Board of Directors. There were 2 pullet growers that submitted applications and there was lots of interest from our producers. Be sure to check your email regularly in case this program is run again and you qualify, as the turnaround from the time that a pullet grower submits an application to the time a producer(s) is selected is pretty quick.



Here are the stats to date:

EPRP Statistics			
EPRP Amount	Priority 1 Applications	Priority 2 Applications	Invalid Applications**
4,635	4	3	2
13,200	1	N/A	2

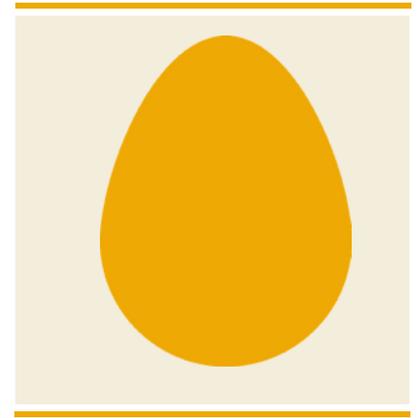
**Invalid: late application, or not being able to apply for the minimum request



Healthy Eggs

Amendment to the Pullet Vaccination Requirements within the National SE Protocol

Effective January 1, 2023, when a pullet facility tests positive for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE), the next flock placed in that pullet facility must be vaccinated against SE. It is highly recommended that all subsequent flocks in the facility be vaccinated against SE.



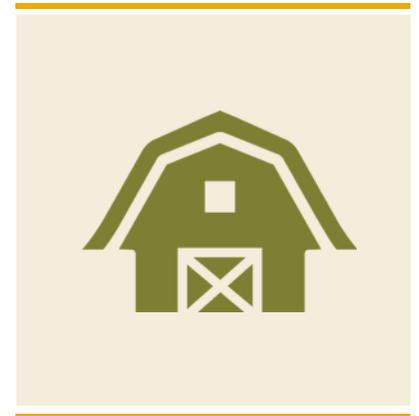
This aligns the pullet requirements with the layer requirements put into place on January 1, 2022.

The National SE Protocol sets minimum standards for testing and the management of confirmed Salmonella Enteritidis SE positive environments. Since October 2020, a number of steps have been taken across the industry to mitigate the risk of egg recalls linked to positive environmental SE test results. Upon review of vaccination in preventing SE contamination in eggs, EFC's SE Taskforce requested that steps be taken to make vaccination against SE mandatory for subsequent flocks housed in facilities that have tested positive for SE.

Healthy Farms

Federal Consultation on Nitrogen Fertilizer Emissions Targets from Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC)

As most will be aware, in December 2020, the federal government announced a target to reduce emissions from nitrogen-based fertilizers by 30%. This target is part of the federal government's overall climate change plan, entitled "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy". The strategy is specifically targeting Nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions arising from fertilizer use in Canadian agriculture. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a strong greenhouse gas. The target is a reduction in emissions, not fertilizer.



Continued on next page ...

This target was reaffirmed in Spring 2022, when Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) started consultations on how to achieve this goal. Consultations were open until August 31, 2022. AAFC issued a discussion paper outlining several areas in which the government is hoping to gain input from stakeholders, including:

- Barriers: Identifying the barriers to adopting fertilizer reduction practices
- Partnerships and promotion: How can government partner with industry to promote the adoption of sustainable fertilizer practices?
- Data: How can governments and industry more accurately capture emissions data on farm?
- Innovations: How can governments and industry promote the development of innovative technologies to assist in emissions reductions?

Furthermore, the target gained attention following the meeting of Canadian agriculture ministers this summer where provincial governments raised concerns. Much of the concern is linked to the implementation of the target and fertilizer reduction practices. Several provincial governments and organizations representing farmers have asked for emissions reductions from fertilizer to be measured via intensity. That is, how much food is produced compared to the amount of fertilizer used. The federal government's plan is focused on an absolute reduction in emissions, which some farm groups say will result in less food being produced at a time when the world can't afford it.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) has been involved in these consultations and submitted comments and input based on member feedback. [Note: To view the CFA submission, please visit the Resource Library on the Producer Portal under Learning & Education and search for 'fertilizer'].

According to the CFA, their primary focus remains on ensuring there are sufficient supports in place for farmers as this target is implemented, along with ensuring the targets will not undermine competitiveness and that regulations will not be implemented. The implementation of the target has a widespread impact on food production in Canada, the Canadian agriculture sector, as well as the egg supply chain (e.g. feed crop production).

Additionally, nitrogen fertilizer would typically be used on egg farms that are growing their own crops. For example, farmers growing crops would be applying a combination of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, manure from their livestock, as well as micronutrients like sulphur and zinc. Considering strategies that reduce emissions at the point of feed crop production, as well as during manure management will play a role in reducing overall emissions for the egg farming sector. EFC worked through CFA to provide input into the federal consultation and is monitoring the file.



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Healthy Communities

From Your Research Committee

At the last meeting, the Research Committee spent time reviewing and updating EFA's research priorities. The initial priorities were set in place in July 2019, and the modifications the committee made were to refresh the priorities with an eye toward a full renewal in 2024. Our recommendations were put forward to the Board for approval.



We use these priorities to guide us in reviewing projects that come forward. The committee decided that some priorities will remain on the list for reporting purposes, but we will de-emphasize the priorities in calls and communications to researchers given research already underway.

The biggest addition to the priorities was to review proposals with a focus on projects that improve the resiliency of the Alberta poultry industry to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Given the current and ongoing situation in Alberta, we feel this is a high priority.

Several priorities were removed as they were not deemed relevant. For example, "Can we enrich spent hen tissue with nutrients for harvesting as a human health supplement?"

Additionally, a list of ideas was developed that are not part of the priorities, but we will keep on the back burner. The revised research priorities will be posted to the producer portal once approved by the Board. To see current projects that are being funded, please visit the EFA portal.

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 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 tate.odwyer@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.

Egg Joke



What happens when you tell an egg a joke?

It cracks up!



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Marketing Highlights

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

Myth busted!



New blog on Biosecurity

HEALTHY BIRDS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Biosecurity: What is it and why it's important

You may not be familiar with the term biosecurity when it comes to the egg industry, but it is a term that is constantly used throughout the industry and is crucial in maintaining a safe supply of local, high-quality eggs [...]

AI Social Media Statement

The screenshot shows an Instagram post from the account 'eggfarmersalberta'. The post features a photograph of a red barn with two large white silos. The text of the post reads: 'With cases of Avian Influenza (AI) once again on the rise in Alberta, you may be unsure about purchasing any poultry products. Rest assure that any eggs or poultry products you purchase are still safe to consume. If a flock on a farm does test positive, that entire flock does not go into the local food supply. It is also important to know that AI is not a foodborne illness, meaning it is not transmittable when cooked to the recommended internal temperature. Together, the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team along with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are working closely in monitoring for AI. Our producers remain diligent and follow strict measures to keep Alberta's supply the safest it can be. Thank you for your continued support in our industry during this challenging time.' The post has 11 likes and is dated September 23.



Happy World Egg Day!

