

EggNotes

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Marketing Specialist: Angie Lang
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Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin
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Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
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Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
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Business Manager: Kari Buijs
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Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
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Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin

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

Closed September 2 - Labour Day

Egg Price Update Effective July 14, 2019

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.250	↑
A	Large	2.250	↑
A	Medium	2.020	↑
A	Small	1.650	↑
A	Nest Run	2.120	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.270	-
B		0.750	-
C		0.150	-

Note: From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010, and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of
Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: September 20, 2019

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website (full issue PDF) or EFA's producer website



Board Update

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors recently attended the 2019 Canadian Egg Farmers Conference and Egg Farmers of Canada summer meetings, in Yellowknife, NT. EFA would like to thank the Northwest Territories Egg Producers Board for hosting such a fantastic and successful event! A wide range of pertinent topics were discussed, including the EQA™ program, trade updates and CUSMA/CPTPP compensation, the service fee, Animal Care Program updates and hen housing transition, egg supply and demand, and various other policy and program updates.

The EFA Board also recently met with EFA's Research Committee and Production Management Committee, to review and renew EFA's research priorities. The goal was for the group to develop a list of researchable questions that are a priority for both the provincial egg industry and EFA investment. For more details about the outcomes from this strategic session, please see the CETPP article.

EQA Update

The Egg Quality Assurance program (EQA™), which was launched earlier this year, certifies that eggs are produced according to strict food safety and animal welfare standards. It demonstrates a commitment from restaurants, retail stores, food manufacturers and distributors towards quality, made-in-Canada eggs. It also gives Canadian consumers a visual way to recognize eggs produced to the highest standards – food they trust.

On July 30th, Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) announced that McDonald's Canada has signed-on to feature the EQA™ certification mark on television, print and digital advertisements for their freshly-cracked Canada Grade A Egg BLT McMuffin®. The 4-week McDonald's ad campaign, which started July 30th, will reach thousands of Canadians across the country, marking the first time most consumers will see the new EQA™ certification mark.

Using the EQA™ certification mark showcases McDonald's pride in sourcing Canadian eggs from the hardworking farmers that produce them!



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Federal Election

As discussed at the EFA regional meetings in June, there is an upcoming Canadian federal election that will take place on or before October 21, 2019. Campaign season is a tremendous opportunity for egg farmers to meet all the candidates in their local riding, to introduce yourself and start building relations with your future MP, share your stories about the egg industry and being an egg farmer, and educating about the benefits of the supply management system.

If you are interested in learning how you can get engaged during this federal election campaign, be sure to check out the Canadian 2019 Federal Election Toolkit on the producer website. It can be found on the Egg Ambassadors page in the Healthy Communities section.

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to June 22nd, 2019, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.0 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 0.6% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending May 25th), and a 2.1% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2018.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 1.5% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 40.9 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3) have seen the largest sales growth; a 4.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.1 million dozen eggs (10.0% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every 4 weeks is available on the producer website.



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Healthy Farms



Poultry Morality Composting

Composting

Egg Farmers of Alberta has heard the concerns of producers at the Regional meetings regarding composting particularly the issues surrounding flies and odour. We would just like to remind you of the benefits and resources available to help you find solutions.

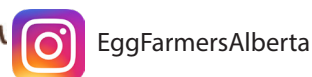
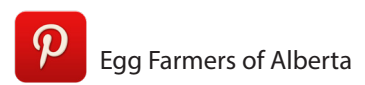
Benefits of composting:

- Inexpensive alternative for poultry disposal
- Can kill pathogens and reduce chance to spread disease
- Destroys the viability of weed seeds
- Environmentally safe and valuable soil carbon material
- Can be operated year round
- Utilizes equipment available on-farm
- Low odour generated
- Low labour and management requirements
- Publically acceptable
- “green” option—recycles and promotes biosecurity
- Expands social acceptance

4-6 weeks

- Odour- breakdown of organic matter can cause a foul odour
- Scavengers-presence of ravens, magpies, insects Pathogens-disease causing spores may still be viable
- Excess nutrient-high concentration of nitrogen
- Nuisance-visible carcasses and bones can cause unwanted social attention

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Symptom	Problem	Recommendations
Odour	Too wet	Add bulking material and turn
	Too low	Evaluate bulking material and adjust as necessary
Flies	Inadequate cover	Cover with 600 mm (2ft) of carbon materia
	Poor sanitation conditions	Provide an adequate base of carbon material to absorb all liquids from the mortalities. Provide run-on and run-off protection, due to precipitation, at the site by grading the pad to a 1-2 slope
	Too wet	Add bulking material and pile

Additional information and troubleshooting can be found in our poultry mortality composting on our producer website.



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Reporting Suspicious Drone Behavior

With the evolving advancements of technology there may be an opportunity for animal activists to use technologies such as drones and piloted aircraft systems to fulfill their agenda. The use of drones or other piloted aircraft systems provide unauthorized access to your farm site as well as the potential for unauthorized capturing of images or videos. If you see any suspicious activity such as a drone flying or hovering over your property, the steps below can be taken.



1. Document the date, time, location of your farm, and length of time the drone spent over your property.
2. Contact local law enforcement, who will determine if the drone operation is legitimate or cause for action against the operator as there are laws and regulations for the operation of this equipment.
3. Notify Egg Farmers of Alberta.
4. The Government of Canada also has a website portal to report drone use that falls outside of regulations at <https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/report-drone-incident.html>

Upcoming events

August 27, FPA Meeting - Ottawa

September 2, Office Closed - Labour Day

September 11 & 12, EFA Board Meeting

September 12 & 13, EFA Strategic Planning



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Healthy Birds



Furnished Hen Housing Certificates

After significant collaboration with Egg Farmers of Canada to ensure the accuracy of the measurements detailed in the furnished hen housing certificates, the certificates are starting to be mailed out to producers.

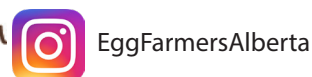
For facilities planned or constructed prior to April 2017, the interim and final requirements are shown on the certificate. When the final requirements are in effect, you will be issued a new certificate that shows the final requirements only.

If any changes are made to the housing system that affect any of the amenities measured, or new furnishings/amenities are added, please work with your EFC inspector to have them measured, and a new housing measurement certificate and/or form will be issued to you containing the final bird capacity of the housing system. If your facility has been recently remeasured and you receive an out of date certificate, please hang onto the certificate until the newly issued certificate arrives.

You will also be receiving a measurement form. The measurement form shows details related to your facility (ex. cage height, perching requirements, etc.) that don't impact placement capacity but are requirements of the new Animal Care Program. This measurement form will need to be kept and presented in conjunction with your hen housing certificate for your Animal Care Program audit.

We would like to thank all our producers for their continued patience in the measurement process.

If you have any questions, please contact Carley Frerichs, Farm Programs Coordinator at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or (403)-250-1197 x 125.



Whole Barn Gassing List

Are you planning on using whole barn gassing to depopulate your next flock? Some farmers are looking to share gas delivery costs by partnering with another nearby farmer using the same method. In order to help facilitate this, EFA will maintain a list of farmers using this method, their desired depopulation date, their geographical area, and their contact information. If you would like your information added to this list, please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or at 403-250-1197 x 125.



Only enlisted registered egg producers can request information from the list. Owing to the sensitivity of the information, the list will not be posted, distributed, or circulated in its entirety via any means but will be used as a tool for staff to answer questions about whether other farms in the area are using whole barn gassing in the same time frame and to allow for release of contact information. Farmers seeking information about others who may be in the area depopulating at the same time frame are encouraged to call Carley at the office.

CETPP Implementation and Policy Survey Results

As outlined at the June Regional Meetings, we will be launching the Conversion to Enriched Transition to Producer Price (CETPP) on September 8, 2019. The goal of this program is transition the market to enriched pricing as producers move away from conventional housing. The final policy will be posted to the producer website in time for the launch of the program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laurel Martin.

A survey was sent out to all registered Canadian egg farmers as part of the ongoing development of the national Conversion to Enriched Transition and Producer Price (CETPP) policy, involving EFC, EFA and other provincial boards. The EFA Board would like to thank all Alberta producers who took the time to complete the survey, the results of which were discussed at their August 1st Board meeting.

The EFA Board determined that the draft CETPP policy was good as is. As such, EFA will move to adopt this policy. A summary of the CETPP Policy survey results have been posted to the producer website, as a news update on the homepage.



Healthy Eggs

Biosecurity Statistics

Since the launch of the biosecurity assessment in 2019 our field staff coordinators have completed 155 biosecurity assessments. Some highlights from the previous update in May include:

Elements already in place on many Alberta egg farms:

- 94% of farms have concrete pad/blocks outside of their primary barn entrance
- 99% of farmers have biosecurity signage posted at all barn entrances
- 97% of farmers have alternative access points to the barn locked
- 94% of farm personnel present at the time of the visit were able to demonstrate the appropriate transition to restricted area
- 92% of farms have dedicated area for storage of dirty clothes and boots on the unrestricted side of transition zone

There was an increase from the previous biosecurity statistics:

- 80% of farms have available SOP's for biosecurity procedures and employee responsibilities
- 79% of farms provide instructions for visitors explaining biosecurity steps prior to entrance into restricted zones

Some continued areas for improvement:

- Only 18% of barns have installed alarm systems
- 59% of farms have posted signage for transition line to restricted zone
- Just 35% of farms always keep their barn doors locked
- 30% of farms do not have a hand washing or sanitizing station available at the transition zone

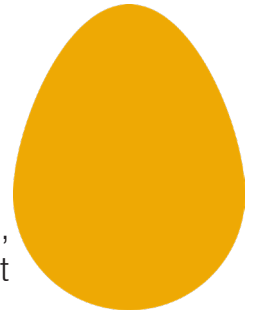
For more information on the complete biosecurity assessment statistics, please visit our producer website.

Egg-cellent news! As a result of the biosecurity assessment and distribution of the Danish entry resource, two additional Alberta farms have installed Danish entries to assist personnel and visitors in identifying the transition zone into the restricted area.



Letter of Assurance for SE-free feed

During the Start Clean-Stay Clean® Layer audits, Egg Farmers of Canada and/or the third-party auditors will request to see your Letter of Assurance from your feed supplier. The Letter of Assurance indicates that the feed supplier has implemented suitable good management practices that reduce, prevent, or eliminate known biological and chemical hazards. The letter must also confirm that feed supplied is not knowingly contaminated with salmonella enteritis or with pharmaceutical residues.



Thus, the letter indicates that the feed supplier has taken necessary steps to reduce the risk on contamination and to the best of their knowledge the feed is clean. However, this is not a guarantee. In order to guarantee the feed was free of Salmonella Enteritis or other pharmaceutical residues the feed would require testing.

Classified Ad

Wanted: end of lay birds for African food market in Calgary
Contact: Grace @ 587-500-3699 or edeh.gracy8@gmail.com



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