

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair: Meb Gilani	403-899-8060
Vice Chair: Peter Waldner	403-795-8621
EFC Director: Beatrice Visser	780-674-6297
EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer	403-363-3501
Director: Conrad Vanessen	403-635-7998
Director: Elie Hofer	780-691-8512

EFA Staff

Susan Gal
General Manager, 587-391-6124 / ext.124

David Webb
Marketing & Comm. Manager, 587-391-6126 / ext.126

Adelina Gashi
Marketing & Social Media 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, 587-391-6121 / ext.121

Brandy Addai
Logistics Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

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

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
September 6 - Labour 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: September 10, 2021

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



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd. NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9
P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- ▶ The Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to remind producers about the revised farm gate pick-up rates that came into effect on August 1, 2021 (week 32/21), per the memo that was sent to all registered Alberta egg farmers on July 28, 2021.

The Board was fortunate to recently hear a presentation from the CEO of Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC), Tim Lambert, about megatrends facing the egg and agri-food industry. The presentation provided thought-provoking insights and perspectives about what the future may hold for our industry. It also acted as a reminder about the strategic importance of adopting a forward-looking outlook to help stay ahead of the curve of these megatrends, to ensure the Canadian egg industry is sustainable for future generations of egg farmers. The identified megatrends included:

- Population changes & shifting consumer values
- Adapting our food system to navigate the realities of climate change
- Enhanced relationships with Canadian retailers
- Growing awareness of food sovereignty
- New wave of AgTech

How the egg industry and agri-food sector manages and responds to these types of megatrends will shape our industry for the next generation of Canadian egg farmers and consumers. The EFA Board is pleased and honored to inform our fellow producers that Tim Lambert will be giving a presentation to Alberta egg farmers during an upcoming webinar, which will include his national and international perspective of how farmers can proactively manage these inevitable changes that are headed our way.

▶ NEW EFA Website

EFA is eggcited to announce the launch of our new consumer-facing website! We've been working hard for months with Cornerstone Digital to create a new site that has a fresh look. The navigation of the site is new and information has been categorized into our 4 pillars for easy access. Check it out at www.eggs.ab.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6, Office Closed - Labour Day

September 7, EFC Strategic Planning

September 7, Quota Exchange Notification

September 8 & 9, EFC Board Meeting



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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Healthy Birds



► From Your Production Management Committee

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to respond to the EFC Animal Care Program consultation letters and surveys. The Committee found the comments broadened the scope of discussion and improved the quality of feedback we are able to provide to EFC for both the Mortality Element Addition and the Free Run/Free Range Certification.

We have posted a summary of the feedback received and our thoughts related to the comments on the producer website at Farm Programs (Producer Surveys). We have also posted our official reply to EFC so you can see how it incorporates the thoughts of the collective producer group. It can take some time for the feedback to be reviewed at EFC and go through their approval channels however we will keep you updated as we learn more about the ultimate decisions nationally.

At our next meeting in the fall, we will be discussing the new pilot process of extending EFC consultations to all producers to determine next steps. We welcome you to talk to members of the PMC about this in the meantime.

► Euthanasia Workshop Summary

EFA organized three successful workshops on individual bird euthanasia. The first workshop was hosted on July 14th at Deerfield Colony. The second workshop was at Scotford Colony on July 19th. The last workshop was hosted by MacMillan Colony on July 26th. We would like to thank the colonies for their willingness to host and providing resources such as the hens for the workshops! Overall, there was 71 producer participants in attendance.

Overall, attendees expressed a positive learning experience with the euthanasia workshops. 99% of producer participants indicated they learned something new. Some producer's feedback included:

- "All was good"
- "Everything was useful and great workshop"
- "It was well organized, informative and practical. I especially appreciated that we were able to practice on live birds and more than once if necessary to do it right and ensure a "good death"

For those who were unable to attend and still do not have a certificate of training for euthanasia, EFA will be developing a euthanasia e-learning module on the producer website. It is also recommended that you have one on one training with a certified instructor (Dr. Frank Marshall, Dr. Teryn Girard, Dr. Hollyn Maloney, or your own poultry veterinarian) to ensure you are meeting the Redeveloped Animal Care Program requirements.



Lastly, a special thank you to the following individuals who made the workshops possible:

- Dr. Frank Marshall (Veterinarian Speaker)
- Dr. Teryn Girard (Veterinarian Speaker)
- Dr. Hollyn Maloney (Veterinarian Speaker)
- Steve Laycock (Sponsor from Real Solutions)
- Mark Nelson (Sponsor from Cargill)
- Al Keshwani (Sunrise Hatchery – chick donation)
- Calgary Zoo (Feed donation)

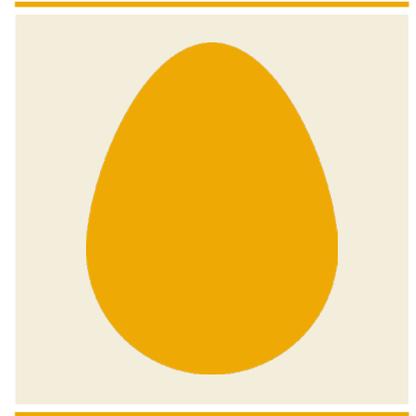


The donation of chick carcasses to the Calgary Zoo are being used to feed the cougars, river otters, and predatory birds including the owls and hawks.

Healthy Eggs

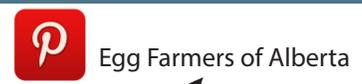
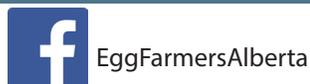
► EQA Update

The Canadian Egg Quality Assurance (EQA) program is an industry-wide initiative showing Canadians, right on the carton, that Canadian eggs are produced according to strict food safety and animal welfare standards. EQA is our guarantee to consumers and businesses that the eggs they purchase are Canadian and of the highest quality. By adding the EQA symbol to cartons, we proudly show the commitment Canadian farmers put into providing safe, fresh, nutritious, local eggs.



While we are starting to see the EQA symbol show up on egg cartons in Alberta grocery stores, there are still many producer-graders who have not yet registered as an EQA licensee with Egg Farmers of Canada. EFA encourages all Alberta egg graders and retailers to complete a licensing agreement with EFC. There are no licensing fees for using the EQA mark. EQA licensees are advised to incorporate the mark into their product packaging in accordance with EQA brand guidelines.

Contact David Webb at the EFA office if you would like more details about the EQA program, would like to receive an EQA Info Sheet, or would like instructions for becoming an EQA licensee.



➤ **BMD Label Claim for Laying Hens with Zero Egg Withdrawal Time**

From Egg Farmers of Canada

In December 2018, Health Canada implemented new policies to phase out growth promotion and production claims for all medically important antimicrobial drugs approved for sale for use in food animals. The policy changes inadvertently impacted the egg sector by effectively removing all options to treat sick laying hens with antibiotics that had a zero egg withdrawal time (specifically 2 key antibiotics - Oxytetracycline and Chlortetracycline).

To find a solution, EFC partnered with experts from CgFARAD (Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank), the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians and pharmaceutical company, Zoetis, to submit a white paper application to Health Canada, through the 'minor use minor species' pathway, for a label claim for BMD® for use in laying hens to treat necrotic enteritis, with zero egg withdrawal time.

BMD® (bacitracin methylene disalicylate) is a category III antibiotic distributed by Zoetis with existing broiler chicken claims in the prevention and treatment of necrotic enteritis, and reduction of early mortality due to diminished feed consumption and chilling, as well as claims for pregnant and lactating sows or gilts.

The white paper application was researched and written by the expert partners in 2019 and 2020, and the submission made to Health Canada in June 2020 by Zoetis.

On June 10, 2021 Health Canada issued a Notice of Compliance to Zoetis for BMD® 110 use in Layers, along with the approved label. The new label claim for laying hens is as follows:

- Laying hens as an aid in treatment of necrotic enteritis associated with *Clostridium perfringens* susceptible to bacitracin.
- Start medication at first clinical signs of disease.
- Feed continuously for 7 days.
- 1.0 kg of BMD® 110 G per 999.0 kg complete feed to provide a bacitracin concentration of 110 mg/kg.

Egg farmers now have tools available to them to treat sick flocks using an antibiotic with zero egg withdrawal time. As with other medically important antimicrobials, a veterinary prescription is required to use BMD® to treat a laying hen flock.



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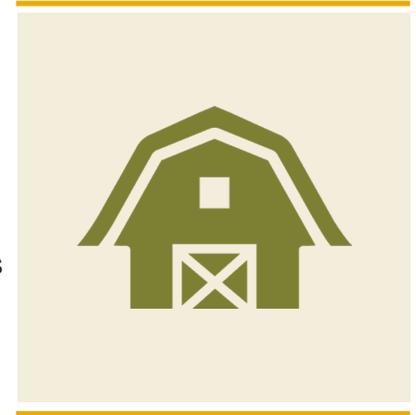
Egg Farmers of Alberta



Healthy Farms

► Manure Releases on Confined Feeding Operations: Response and Prevention

With the historic heat wave hovering over Alberta the past month, many of us have been longing for rain to cool things off and revive crops. But heavy rains can increase the risk of a manure release. A release of manure from a confined feeding operation (CFO) is a serious issue that needs to be addressed immediately. Do you know what to do if a release occurs on your property?



CFO and seasonal feeding and bedding site owners and operators are required to report all manure releases to the NRCB's 24-hour reporting line (1-866-383-6722). The risk to the environment associated with a release incident will dictate next steps. Manure (including catch basin contents) releases include spills, overflows, **or manure runoff from spreading fields**. Though uncommon, manure releases may occur into water bodies as well as onto adjacent property.

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) has released a "Manure Release Response Policy". It has been posted to the producer website under Healthy Farms (Manure). It describes the process used by NRCB inspectors to ensure manure releases from CFOs are dealt with in a consistent, effective, and transparent manner. This process has been used for years by NRCB inspectors as an internal protocol.

CFO owners and operators should monitor liquid levels in their manure collection and storage facilities, as well as maintain a freeboard of not less than 0.5 metres to help prevent releases from occurring. Releases can also occur during liquid manure application due to equipment failures, for example if a drag hose breaks. The NRCB also encourages CFO owners and operators to be proactive and develop a plan for potential manure releases from all manure storage facilities. This includes having an accessible Emergency Manure Spill Action Plan and having an emergency spill kit available. Additional information on manure spill prevention and response, including an Emergency Manure Spill Action Plan template, is available at <https://www.alberta.ca/manure-spill-prevention-and-response.aspx>.

For more information on this policy or on what to do if a manure release occurs, please contact an NRCB inspector at the NRCB field office nearest you.



➤ **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>).

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

➤ **Emissions Reduction Alberta: Energy Savings for Business Program**

The Energy Savings for Business (ESB) program is offering incentives of up to \$500,000 for buildings, including \$250,000 per project. Combined heat and power incentives, for example, support both projects smaller than 150 kW and larger projects between 150 kW and 4MWe.

Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) is currently over halfway through the program, with approximately 50% of the total incentive budget remaining. For larger projects they will accept post-project applications until Oct. 1, 2022. This means you have until then to apply for pre-approval, construct and apply for post-project incentives.

To date, other participants in the agricultural sector have taken advantage of:

- Agricultural lighting, including top lighting linear fixtures and high bay lighting,
- Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) that can adjust the speed of your HVAC to the occupancy of your buildings,
- Wall and Ceiling insulation,
- Air compressors and compressed air storage, and
- Evaporator fans and strip curtains for refrigerated components of their business.

Incentives for these measures and many others are available in the ESB Program. For more information, please visit <https://eralberta.ca/energy-savings-for-business/>



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➤ Safety Minute - Energy Isolation

From AgSafe Alberta

When you hear “Energy Isolation” you probably immediately think of electricity. If you stop and think can you name other sources of energy on your farm? Other sources include: Chemical, gravitational, thermal, hydraulic, mechanical, pneumatic and radiation. How many did you think of? How many are on your farm?

We can isolate energy from our tasks by:

- Locking it out or de-energizing when we are working
- Blocking all parts with the potential to move
- Relieving pressure from hydraulic lines before working on them
- Replace the guards before you begin using the equipment again



Reach out to info@agsafeab.ca for a free lock out tag for use on your equipment.

Healthy Communities

➤ What is the APIEMT?

After the Avian Influenza scare in British Columbia and the United States in 2004, the Alberta Poultry Industry (API) recognized the need for large scale emergency preparedness plans for disease outbreaks and other cross commodity events such as natural disasters like wildfire or flooding. Thus, the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIEMT) initiative began. The API consists of four poultry commodities, Alberta Chicken Producers (ACP), Alberta Turkey Producers (ATP), Alberta Hatching Egg Producers (AHEP), and Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA). The broader APIEMT includes the poultry commodity boards, egg graders, egg processors, feed industry, meat and egg hatcheries, meat processors, and communications consultants.



The function of the APIEMT is to help plan, prepare, and practice procedures for the poultry industry during a scalable emergency (an emergency that rapidly grows and affects multiple commodities). The APIEMT will meet to discuss, refine, and practice their emergency response skills so that in the event of an emergency, members are able to assist those impacted and communicate effectively with other industry stakeholders. The regularly occurring APIEMT meetings have created awareness of the different roles and has facilitated the building of relationships over many years which is an advantage during a large-scale emergency.



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Green Eggs!

Ag Can **50% Rebate** on SOLAR for Farmers

APPLY BEFORE ITS GONE

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► **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.gashi@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.

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

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 August, we will be focusing on educating consumers about where their local eggs come from. With the theme of local food and farms, we will be highlighting fresh summer salad recipes that have eggs as the main feature. Follow us on social to check out the local food and farms posts.



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