

# EggNotes

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Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb  
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Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang  
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ext: 125

Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin  
ON MAT LEAVE

Office Manager: Laurel Martin  
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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  
ext: 128

Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin  
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow  
ext: 105

## 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

Office will be closed on February 18 for Family  
Day

## Egg Price Update Effective May 27, 2018

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.20	↑
A	Large	2.20	↑
A	Medium	1.970	↑
A	Small	1.600	↑
A	Nest Run	2.073	↑
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: February 8, 2019

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



# HEALTHY BIRDS

## HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Jenna had little Astrid Stephanie Rae on her due date, December 26 at 5:32 pm. 6 lbs 12 oz and 49 cm long. Jenna says they are all doing well!

#### Upcoming events

January Regional Meetings - **Please see regional meeting article**

EFC Board Meeting – **February 6 & 7**, Ottawa

EFC Industry Orientation Session – **February 7**, Ottawa

EFA Board Meeting – **February 8**, Calgary

Office Closed – **February 18**

Western Poultry Conference – **February 25**, Red Deer

Alberta Poultry Reception – **February 25**, Red Deer

EFA 50th AGM – **February 26**, Red Deer



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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# Healthy Birds

## Interim Housing Standards

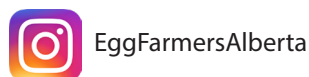


As of January 10, 2019 Egg Farmers of Canada will begin auditing farmers on “Interim Housing Standards”. These standards reflect the 2017 Code of Practice requirements and are being audited to help farmers identify where facilities are not meeting requirements prior to the release of the re-developed Animal Care Program. The Interim Housing Standards will be audited in a separate evaluation form to the Animal Care Program Rating form and will not impact your Animal Care Program score. Corrective Actions will be issued following the interim housing assessment. While CARs will be managed in the same manner as the Animal Care Program, there is no mandatory score.

Through the consultation process for the re-developed Animal Care Program, EFA has learned that any requirements in the 2017 Code of Practice will be mandatory elements of the new Animal Care Program – which is set to launch in late 2020. This means that elements such as providing 2.8” of feeder space per bird will now be “must haves” in your barn and will therefore impact the capacity of facilities in order to ensure that farmers pass the Animal Care Program going forward. Through the delivery of the Interim Housing Standards, EFA will be able to work with farmers to better understand where mandatory elements for the new Animal Care Program may not be currently met, and to work together with farmers to develop a transition plan.

Interim Housing Standards will only be assessed on farms that have a Hen Housing Certificate. EFA and EFC are currently working together to measure alternative housing systems (furnished systems and free run systems) with the goal of issuing Hen Housing Certificates for all farmers in Alberta in 2019. EFA has officially adopted the National protocols for measuring alternative housing systems in order to ensure that farms in Alberta meet the national animal care requirements. This means that when verification measurements take place in alternative housing, it is possible that some systems will be identified as not meeting the 2017 code requirements. In these cases, producers will have until the next flock change that they have not yet ordered pullets for to either reduce their flock placement or to make adjustments to their barn to accommodate additional their quota according to Code requirements. Quota taken out of production to meet Code requirements can be leased until the producer materially renovates their facility.

To learn more about the Interim Housing Standards and 2017 Code requirements, attend the January regional meetings for a full update!



## Ventilation Flock Talks: Minimum Winter Ventilation

In November, over 50 attendees participated in the Flock Talk, “Ventilation: Exchanging Expertise”. We are including a series of articles in *EggNotes* as part of an ongoing effort to share learnings from those sessions. We thought that this January, as the temperatures are likely to drop, it would be a good time to focus on what we learned at these workshops related to minimum winter ventilation.



- Minimum ventilation levels will change depending on the distance from the inlet to the fan, the size of the barn, and other factors. There is no magic number that applies to all barns. However, it is helpful to think about minimum air movement pressures: 1 pascal per foot of distance between inlet and fan is a good starting point with levels being fine-tuned from this benchmark.
- The colder it gets outside, the higher the negative pressure must be because cold air is heavy and drops.
- Your negative pressure can be measured with a monometer:
  - Have one hose end inside and one outside
  - Can be measured in inches or pascals. Typically, pascals are better because they provide a finer measurement.
- Keep in mind negative pressure is not a constant: If the wind is blowing, it will bounce around and won't read correctly. A 50 mph wind without fan and damper wide open will move 80% of the air capacity of chimney.
- If you are having trouble keeping your inlets from freezing up, consider if your negative pressure is too high.
- Many farmers have considered multiple temperature sensors for their barn. These can show what is going on in the barn but keep in mind, unless you have different controllers, winches, and minimum fan speeds the temperature sensors can't control the ventilation. It is possible to link the sensors and take an average.
- Measuring plates are high maintenance. Keep in mind the stalest dirtiest air is going through the exhaust fan. They tend to calibrate at a different RPM each year and if you aren't calibrating them every month you may be getting an inaccurate reading. Because of this inaccuracy, measuring fans shouldn't be used for minimum ventilation.
- Your controller should be programmed with a winter correction. This will tell the inlets to close to less than they are supposed to be at and adjust the negative pressure in 20-30% increments.
- “Cycle Time” is when the amount of ventilation air exchange is dictated by a time clock setting or timer in the electronic controller. When the temperature is below the desired set point, the controller is set to open air inlets and turn on fans for a set duration of time (typically in 5-minute increments).

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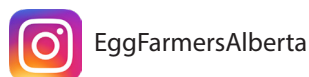
- Cycle time helps avoid having a small amount of air moving consistently. It allows the fans to go on to bring the air in and then go off to let the air warm up. This takes advantage of using the birds' body temperature to regulate the environment inside of the house.
- The following link lets you put in the number of birds, fan capacity, and ventilation rate needed and it will tell you how long your cycle time should be:  
[aces.edu/poultryventilation/documents/MinVentTimerCalculator.pdf](https://aces.edu/poultryventilation/documents/MinVentTimerCalculator.pdf).
- If the ammonia is high fans will start to increase in increments depending on your set points. For example, if your controller is set at 2700 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, the controller will start increasing the "cycle time".
- During the "ventilating" portion of the cycle (ex. 25 seconds of a 3-minute cycle time) the full ventilation system needs to open including the fans, inlets, and dampers.



The above represents information presented and discussed at three Flock Talk meetings in November 2018 by experts with a broad base of perspective. Information is from the perspective of those experts present. Farmers designing or changing ventilation systems are advised to consult their own experts who have knowledge of their specific barn and systems.

You are invited to join us for the fifth annual Western Poultry Conference at the Sheraton Red Deer. Conveniently placed the day before the Alberta Poultry Industry Annual General Meeting, the Western Poultry Conference is packed with practical information for all poultry producers!

For more information, please go to: [westernpoultryconference.ca](http://westernpoultryconference.ca)



## New Egg Manager Town Hall Call

On December 11, 2018 EFA hosted a Town Hall Call for New Egg Managers. On the call we welcomed Steve Laycock of Real Solutions Plus to share some insights on Managing Egg Quality and Michael Hofer from Sunrise Colony to talk about the lessons he learned on his journey from new egg manager to where he is now, 7 years later. This one hour call provided some fantastic information and pointers for farmers both new and experienced.



If you are interested in taking a listen, we welcome you to access the recording to the call on the Producer Website.



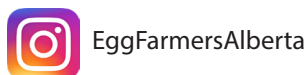
## 2019 Record Keeping Book Changes

At the January regional meetings EFA will be distributing record keeping books for the 2019 on farm programs.

We have made a number of changes to this year's books to both improve, and to address on farm program changes. Below is a summary of the changes (in the order they appear in the book) with a short explanation to help you as you move into a new year of record keeping!

- To prepare for upcoming ACP requirements where a back-up method for individual bird euthanasia is noted, this has been added to the record keeping book. Please note that this year, indicating your back-up method is optional.

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Plan for Individual Bird Euthanasia	
<b>Primary Method used for euthanizing cull birds:</b>	<b>Back-up Method used for euthanizing cull birds:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cervical Dislocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cervical Dislocation
<input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Dioxide Gas (specify equipment): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Dioxide Gas (specify equipment): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Location of Standard Operating Procedures for Euthanasia of Culled birds: _____	

- A second date area has been added to the Catching and Handling record in the Layer books to record that the guidelines were followed when birds are moved in and when birds are moved out. This change came at the request of the Field Inspectors completing the Animal Care Program audits.

Supervisor Sign-Off for moving birds out of the barn:		Supervisor Sign-Off for moving birds into the barn:	
<b>Farmer or Designate:</b>		<b>Farmer or Designate:</b>	
<b>Catching Crew Supervisor:</b>		<b>Catching Crew Supervisor:</b>	

- A reminder has been added to the pharmaceutical records that as of December 1, 2018 all Category 2 and 3 antibiotics (including those in feed) require a veterinarian prescription. Category 1 antibiotics are prohibited in the Canadian egg industry.
- Guidelines for Cleaning & Disinfection have been added to the record keeping book – this process has been developed by Alberta Agriculture with the goal of breaking the cycle of Salmonella and other pathogens between flocks.
- In the Flock Disposal and Housing Records in the 1 and 2 flock books we have added a new line for farmers to record the time the first birds go out during depopulation. This information has been requested by the Field Inspectors conducting the animal care assessments.

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<b>Flock Disposal</b> <i>(old flock going out of production)</i>	
Date:	
Time (first birds out):	
Time (last birds out):	
# Birds:	
Permit #:	



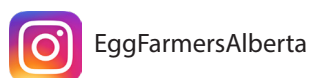
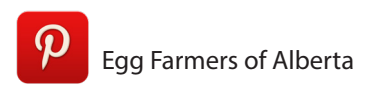
- In 2019 we are adding foot health monitoring to our records of outcome based measures. We are encouraging farmers to monitor outcome based measures – now including feather cover and foot health because these can be powerful tools for managing flocks and finding health/production issues early. Also, we know that monitoring outcome based measures is becoming more prevalent in animal care audits around the world and we want our farmers to become more comfortable monitoring them. The Production Management Committee selected foot health for 2019’s measurement because of its impact on animal care and production. Foot health is also relevant to farmers using all types of housing systems. A full set of instructions and a column for foot health records has been added in next to the resources for feather cover monitoring in the record keeping book.

Foot Health Scoring:

Score	Description
0	Feet intact, no or minimal hard patches, no wounds 
1	Significant hard patches, thickening on the foot, no or moderate swelling 
2	Swollen 

<b>Flock Monitoring</b>			
Permit:			
Block:			
#	Back Score	Neck Score	Foot Health Score
1			

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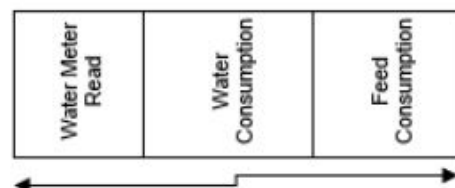


- To maintain Organic certification, farmers with organic flocks are required to note when their birds have access to their outdoor range. At the request of these farmers, we've added a column for Outdoor access in the months of April through to September. Here they can indicate when they've let birds out, or restricted access. Whenever access has been restricted, a note explaining why is needed in the corrective actions section.



Culls	Egg Production	Outdoor Access

- We have expanded the columns where long numbers are recorded to be as large as possible – hopefully this makes it a little easier to write in your numbers!
- We've updated the monthly activity log so that all weekly activities are grouped together – so if you are looking for the Egg Pick-up, Feed Delivery or Take Feed Sample fields, look in the section for weekly requirements.



- To reflect the requirement that barns housing 2 flocks in one barn must record ammonia volumes in both rooms housing layers, the Monthly Inspection Checklist in the 2 flock book has been adjusted to provide space for recording ammonia readings in 2 rooms from the months of October through to March.

<b>Initial</b>	
	Alarm Systems
	Back-up Generator & Power Systems
	Ammonia Concentrations less than 25ppm* (Room 1)
	Ammonia Reading (Room 1):
	Ammonia Concentrations less than 25ppm* (Room 2)
	Ammonia Reading (Room 2):

- The audit checklist at the back of your record keeping book has been updated to reflect the new record requirements for feed.

If you prefer to use the Excel based record keeping books, updated versions can now be found on the Producer Website under the Start Clean- Stay Clean Layers and Pullets pages. We wish you success in your on farm programs in 2019 and trust that the updated record keeping books support you in achieving your goals!

