

EggNotes

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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
February 15 - Family Day, Office Closed

Egg Price Update Effective August 9, 2020

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.370	↑
A	Large	2.370	↑
A	Medium	2.080	↓
A	Small	1.750	-
A	Nest Run	2.227	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.280	-
B		0.770	-
C		0.160	-

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: February 12, 2021

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



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Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- ▶ Your Board of Directors hopes for a tremendous turnout of registered Alberta egg farmers at our 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions around in-person gatherings, EFA's AGM is going virtual! The AGM will be hosted via Zoom and will run from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

As a reminder, Director Nomination Packages were sent out at the end of December, and all nominations must be received at the Egg Farmers of Alberta's office by January 18th. Ballots will then be sent out by January 21st along with nominee profiles and instructions for submitting your completed ballot, which must be returned to Deloitte LLP by 4:00 pm on February 19th, 2021. The mail-in voting policy was also recently emailed to producers, providing details about the AGM and the election process. It would also be wise to double-check who the designated representative is for your farm. Results of the election will be announced at the upcoming AGM.

Formal invitations to EFA's AGM will be emailed to registered egg farmers by the end of January, which will include detailed instructions for registering and attending the AGM hosted via Zoom and/or conference call. An extensive pre-AGM package will be mailed to all registered egg farmers by February 16th, which will include a copy of the 2020 Annual Report, minutes from the 2020 AGM, a voting guide, and EFA Rules of Order. A recording of a townhall call hosted by EFA last month, where AGM details were shared and related questions were answered, is available for download on the producer website.

▶ Quota Exchange

QE1-2021 Update - Red Notification

EFA launched the Quota Exchange for QE1-21 on December 8, 2020. Unfortunately, we did not receive any eligible applications for quota sales and therefore will not be running the exchange for this quarter.

The next Quota Exchange (QE2-21) will launch on **March 9, 2021**. Notices will be sent to all registered producers and posted to the producer website as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17, Quota Leasing Pool Deadline - Forms are due back to the office

January 18, Deadline to file changes for named representatives for AGM voting

January 18, Deadline for Director Nominations

January 19 & 20, Regional Meeting via Zoom

January 21, Quota Exchange Sales Deadline - Final day to submit quota units for sale

February 2 & 3, EFC Board Meeting

February 10, Uniform Levy Project Team Meeting

February 11, EFA Board Meeting

February 14, Quota Leasing Pool Deadline - Allocation will be confirmed, producers to be notified of amount

February 15, Family Day - Office Closed

February 15, Deadline to submit motions/resolutions for AGM

February 19, Deadline for receiving AGM Director ballots

February 28, Quota Leasing Pool Deadline - Producers leasing will be notified of the amount



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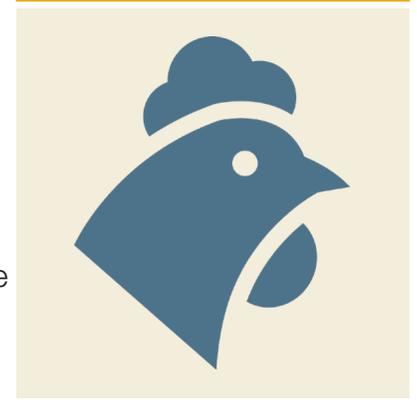
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Healthy Birds



➤ 2021 Biosecurity Assessment

In the December EggNotes issue, EFA highlighted areas where producers had made significant improvements between 2019 and 2020, as well as the performance on some of higher scored new elements added in the 2020 biosecurity assessment. This year, no new elements have been added to the assessment and EFA is focusing on improving lower scoring elements.

To find the list of all elements that are used during your biosecurity assessment on farm visit the producer website at Biosecurity Assessment (Farm Programs).

➤ Transport Workshop Follow-Up

In November 2020, EFA hosted four transport workshops. During the workshops there were great questions asked about the updated Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) transport regulations. Most of the questions were answered during the workshops but there were three questions that remained unanswered:

1. What constitutes rest in poultry - do birds have to be unloaded from the container, or if they are provided feed, water, and can lay down within the container would this qualify as rest?
2. Access to feed, water, and rest must be provided for the time clock to reset. If rest is defined as 8 hours, does that mean the feed, water, rest interval would not restart until birds have 8 hours of rest?
3. Do the documents/information for record keeping stay with the transporter and only the transporter? Can you confirm they are not required to pass them on to anyone else and that they are responsible for them? For example, if a producer delivers pullets to a farm, they complete the records, and retain them for 2 years, do they need to provide them to the egg producer? In the case of processing, do they keep them or hand them off to the plant?

EFA and workshop speaker, Jennifer Woods, have heard back from CFIA and provided the answers in the document, **CFIA Transport Regulations Question and Answer Factsheet**, available on the producer website under Transportation (Healthy Birds).

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate the CFIA transport regulations. If you have any further inquiries about the transport regulations please contact Carley Frerichs at (403) 250-1197 x 125 or carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca.



➤ Letter of Certification from Feed Suppliers

As of January 1, 2021, the Start Clean – Stay Clean® program has established three different categories for feed sources with specific requirements for each category.

OPTION #1: Accredited On-Farm Feed Mill (provincially inspected by CFIA/CQA)

OPTION #2: Non-Accredited On-Farm Feed Mill (on-farm feed mill not provincially inspected)

OPTION #3: Purchasing Complete Feed (no on-farm feed mill).

For those producers who fit into Option 3, a letter of assurance from the feed mills and/or ingredient suppliers (regardless of HACCP accreditation, a letter is required for each separate supplier) must be supplied during your audit to fulfill this requirement. To assist, EFA has provided a template and further information on the guidelines for the other feed mill options on the producer website under SC-SC™ Layers or SC-SC™ Pullets (Farm Programs).

➤ New Year, New Reminders

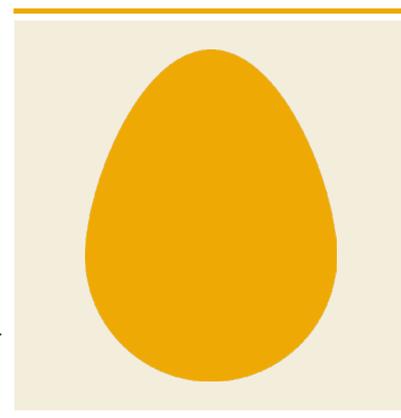
With a new year ahead of us we want to remind all producers its time to get a 2021 version of the following documents:

- Water tests
- Feed letters (per above)
- Material supply letter from the grader

Healthy Eggs

➤ Egg Size Management Calculator

Alberta has historically produced a high number of medium sized eggs compared to other provinces across Canada. Some farmers continue to raise this is an issue with the main concern being that the high percentage of mediums produced in Alberta is costing the system/producers in terms of industrial product costs. Other farmers believe that at an individual farm level, it pays to have a higher percentage of mediums.



Throughout 2020, EFA worked with Serecon Consulting to develop an Egg Size Management calculator. The calculator is based on the analysis of actual farm grade out data. The goal of the calculator is to provide farmers with a tool to assist with self-assessment based on specific farm circumstances.

The calculator is available on the producer website under Egg Production (Healthy Eggs). Throughout 2021, during regularly scheduled farm visits, all farmers will receive a USB with a copy of the calculator, a video overview of how to use the calculator and learnings about medium production, and a historical Alberta Agriculture resource on managing mediums. EFA encourages all farmers to use the calculator to help optimize medium egg production for their farm.



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Healthy Farms

► Farm Programs Summary

2020's farm program results are in! We are pleased to present you with an overview of 2020's farm program results.

These year-end statistics once again demonstrate that Alberta's egg farmers are committed to animal care, producing safe and healthy eggs, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and commitment in an extremely trying year. Congratulations on your success!

- The average ACP rating was 99.62%, with over 90% of farms achieving a perfect 100% score.
- In 2020 the fifth full year of 3rd party audits, there were 49 third-party audits.
- While the ACP is being redeveloped to help farmers transition to new requirements, Egg Farmers of Canada is conducting Interim Housing Standard (IHS) audits. In 2020, 120 IHS audits were completed.
- The average score on the SC-SC™ layer program was 99.4%.
- The average score on PEEP was 84.4%, with 99.4% of farms passing.
- The average Farm Safety score was 66.7% with 87.4% of farms passing.

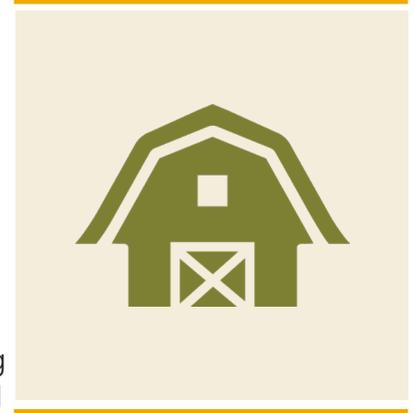
A huge thank you to the EFC and third-party auditors, as well as EFA's Field Coordinators for their diligence in delivering the farm programs despite the challenging circumstances.

► EFA Regulatory Update

The Government of Alberta passed Bill 22, the **Red Tape Reduction Implementation Act**, in July of 2020. As a result, amendments were made to the **Marketing of Agricultural Products Act** (MAPA) to reduce the regulatory burden and generate efficiencies in the regulation-making process. The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council is working closely with provincial marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) to review and update all related Plan Relations.

At a high level, the amendments streamline the regulatory update approval process by transferring more authority from Cabinet to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. MBCs have been granted additional discretionary authority to govern their internal and organizational operations by shifting operational items from the Plan Regulations into bylaws. These changes address long-standing concerns from MBCs about the speed and ease of updating Plan Regulations, while also helping the provincial government fulfill their commitment to reduce the regulatory burden on Albertans.

More detailed information about how these regulatory updates and red tape reduction initiatives impact EFA and the Alberta egg industry will be provided at the upcoming EFA Regional Meetings, and can be found on the producer website under EFA Regulations (Information Center).



► Farm Safety Update

Farm Safety Assessment

2020 was the first year EFA delivered a full farm safety assessment on farm. Congratulations to all farmers who achieved a score of 60% and a farm safety certificate. Farmers scored very well on the following elements:

- Job Task Hazard Assessments (JTHAs)
- Policies and procedures for working alone
- Controlling hazards for equipment and machinery
- Managing safety when working with contractors

There is room for improvement in the following areas:

- Incident management and near miss reporting
- Proper use of the Workplace Hazard Information Management System (WHMIS)
- A comprehensive emergency management plan

For 2021 the EFA Board has set a goal that egg farmers are improving best practices in managing safety on their farms. EFA will continue to work with producers in support of this goal. The following changes have also been made to the program for 2021:

- Changes to clarify that for incident management if a near miss report has not been received in the past year the element should be assessed based on what the farmer has done historically or what the process would be if one were received. Statistics will be kept separate on percentage of farms that had a near miss.
- Clarification on equipment and machinery to remove references to feeding material into machines and to focus on whether the worker's body is within the danger zone of the machine.
- Add a 'not applicable' option for working with contractors wherein the producer receives equivalent points.

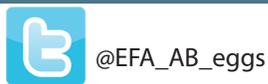
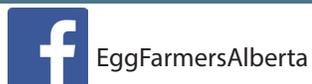
All farmers will receive an updated contractor checklist for their producer manual which includes more information on how and why to speak to contractors about individual farm safety expectations and ensure experience relevant to the job.

AgSafe E-Learning

Looking for resources to help you improve your farm safety assessment score or to strengthen your farm safety plan? AgSafe Alberta has developed free online learning available at <https://www.agsafeab.ca/Elearning.aspx>

Interactive courses are currently available for the following subjects:

- Job Task Hazard Assessments
- Working from Heights
- Incident Management
- Confined Spaces
- Emergency Response



Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

During the delivery of farm safety assessments many farmers had questions about the purpose of the SDS. Every product that is classified as a “hazardous product” under WHMIS that is intended for use, handling, or storage in a workplace in Canada must have an SDS. As per the Canadian Centre for Occupational health and safety:

You can think of the SDS as having four main purposes. It provides information on:

- a. Identification: for the product and supplier.
- b. Hazards: physical (fire and reactivity) and health.
- c. Prevention: steps you can take to work safely, reduce or prevent exposure, or in an emergency.
- d. Response: appropriate responses in various situations (e.g., first-aid, fire, accidental release).

For most people who work with hazardous products, you should always:

- Read the name of the chemical (Section 1),
- Know the hazards (Section 2),
- Understand safe handling and storage instructions (Section 7), and
- Understand what to do in an emergency (Sections 4,5 and 6).”

The SDS will have significantly more detail and information in than a product label. Timely access to this information could be critical in the event of an emergency involving a hazardous substance.

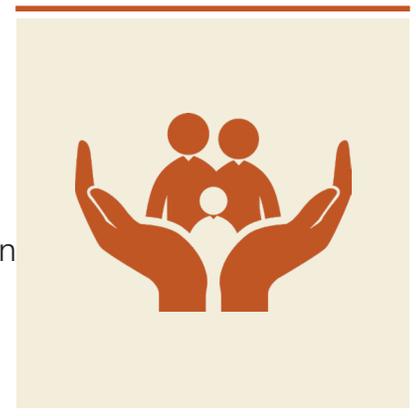
➤ Modern Early Fowl Removal Program Update

As a result of the declining foodservice market caused by lockdowns across the country, due to the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave, EFC has adjusted the period-2 projections of the Modern Early Fowl Removal (MEFR) Program. The national target was increased by 2.1 million birds, to a total of 3.1 million birds for P2. Alberta's target has been increased by 214,482 birds, to a total of 290,042 birds. As such, EFA will be calling on more Alberta egg farmers to participate in the MEFR program, to help us achieve our provincial target.

Healthy Communities

➤ 2021 Western Poultry Conference: Save the Date

Mark your calendars because the dates have been set for the 2021 Western Poultry Conference which will take place on the afternoon of March 23 and morning of March 24. There is a great lineup of speakers for this event including a talk on ventilation in poultry barns by Mike Czarick and a presentation on mental health in agriculture by Briana Hagen.



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Owing to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Western Poultry Conference like many other meetings will be hosted using an online video platform. The committee is currently working on specific details such as a platform that provides alternatives for those who have connectivity issues or time conflicts as well as the cost to tune in. For the latest updates and to register visit the Western Poultry Conference website at <http://westernpoultryconference.ca/>

➤ **2020 Year-in-Review**

EFA staff have created a 2020 year-in-review document, highlighting the most important and significant achievements from the past year. You can view the document on the EFA Staff page of the producer website (Information Center).

➤ **2020 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee George Visser**

Every 2 years, Alberta's Agriculture Hall of Fame recognizes up to 3 individuals for their outstanding leadership, innovation and business practices that have shaped and advanced Alberta's agriculture and food industry. Congratulations to George Visser for being one of the three newest members of the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. Aside from his dedication to the farming community with a "keen interest in modern, up-to-date farming practices," George was on the EFA board from February 1976 for 3 years, representing Edmonton West. He was on the Committee on Quota Policy, Egg Quality Improvement Committee, and served as Chair of the Research and Study Committee.



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► **Communications Update**

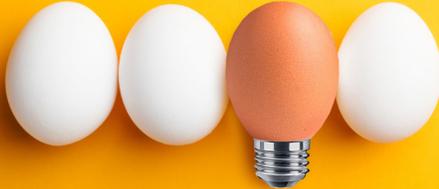
We believe in two-way communication between our consumers and us, and we want you to stay informed, be active and engaged about our social media happenings. Each month we'll include a communications update of a piece of work that we are proud to show you! We would also love your opinion on what you want to see, so if you have suggestions feel free to send them to adelina.gashi@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.

► **Healthy Eating Campaign for January**

As part of our 2021 marketing strategy, we've developed a themed monthly campaign as a fun and creative way to share all the wonderful information about eggs. During the month of January, we will be focusing on healthy eating, in particular highlighting nutritional benefits found in eggs. AdFarm, our creative marketing agency, has created eye catching graphics and messaging to fit our monthly campaigns, here's what you can expect to see on our social media channels this month:



Eggs are a complete protein - they contain all nine essential amino acids to build and repair a strong, healthy body.



All Canadian eggs are hormone and antibiotic free.



Supplementing your diet with vitamin D through eggs, fish and mushrooms is especially important in winter months.



Omega-3 eggs are produced by feeding hens a diet containing flaxseed, a known source of Omega-3.

