

EggNotes

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Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
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Marketing Specialist: Angie Lang
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Farm Services Coordinator: Carley Frerichs
ext: 125
Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin
Ext: 129
Office Manager: Laurel Martin
ext: 121
Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
ext: 101
Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
ext: 127
Business Manager: Kari Buijs
ext: 132
Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
ext: 128
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 August 5 - Heritage 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: August 16, 2019

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



Board Update

Representatives from your Board of Directors have been participating in the Conversion to Enriched Transition and Producer Price (CETPP) project. The collaborative work done by EFC, EFA and other provincial egg boards which has been ongoing since 2018 to facilitate successful transition of pricing models from conventional to enriched. EFA will continue to be involved in the national CETPP roll-out process.

In order to ensure a smooth transition provincially, EFA has developed a new provincial policy. EFA sent a memo related to the new provincial policy to all registered Alberta egg farmers on July 10th, which included both the draft policy (OPP 13.4) and a survey. Both documents have also been posted to the producer website. The Board encourages farmers to submit completed surveys to the EFA office by July 26, 2019, in order to have your voice heard and your feedback considered.

The EFA Board would also like to thank our fellow producers and industry stakeholders who completed their annual Customer Service Survey. A summary including highlights and action items stemming from this year's results can be found in the dedicated article on the next page.

Levy & Egg Price Update

EFA sent two memos to all registered egg farmers on July 5, 2019, detailing changes to the levy, as well as an egg pricing update. The memos have also been posted to the producer website, as a news update on the homepage.

The EFC Board has approved a significant levy increase as a result of a continued lower than expected Urner Barry (UB) Price, which has had a negative impact on the processor prices and processed egg sales. The UB has fallen to a record low and is expected to remain low for some time. This is largely attributed to an oversupply in the US, as producers are building new cage-free production without reducing their conventional production.

EFC determined the levy will increase by \$0.10 / dozen as of July 14, 2019 (week #29). At the July 3, 2019 EFA Board meeting, a levy increase to \$0.4579 / dozen and \$11.649 / bird was authorized, effective July 14, 2019 (week #29).

The EFC Board continues to consider additional options to help deal with the low UB price, with further discussions planned for their upcoming meeting in August.



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EFA Customer Service Survey Results

EFA was pleased to receive more than 100 submissions for the 2019 Customer Service Survey, including 87 from registered egg farmers. Overall, the EFA Board and staff are satisfied with the results.

Results highlights:

- Overall customer service from EFA : 88% scored 8 or higher
- Satisfaction when calling EFA : 94% scored 8 or higher
- Treatment by EFA staff : 94% scored 8 or higher
- Level of customer service from EFA staff : 94% scored 8 or higher

EFA action items:

- Find more effective ways to share results from various research projects
- Find more effective ways to communicate decisions resulting in changes to policies, as well as the timelines for the implementation of those changes
- Figure out how to help registered egg farmers better understand key risk factors
- Find more effective ways to communicate to all registered egg farmers that all Egg Ambassadors are always compensated for their time representing EFA and the egg industry at various events and meetings

Egg Farmers of Alberta strives to provide the best customer service to Alberta egg farmers and industry stakeholders, so your feedback and suggestions are extremely valuable. For that reason, all of us at EFA appreciate you taking the time to complete and submit your EFA Customer Service Survey each year! The full results are available on the producer website.

New Start-Clean Stay-Clean Manuals Have Arrived!

EFA Field Services Coordinators will be providing copies of the new 2018 version of the SC-SC™ Farmers Guideline manuals while they are on farm. Please note that the January 1, 2020 changes have not been included as the manuals had already been sent to print at the time of their approval.



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Healthy Birds

Canadian Feather Pecking Management Plan – Project Update



In the June EggNotes issue there was an article on a research project EFA has been supporting called “Toward an understanding of beautiful feather cover in laying hens” which has been led by Dr. Alexandra Harlander since 2016. If you recall, the project was focused on exploring feather cover and feather loss in Canadian laying hen flocks for non-conventional housing from Canadian commercial farms.

Dr. Harlander has put together a document providing information on risk factors and feather scoring which has been made available on the producer website.

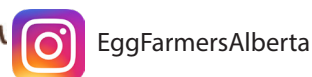
In summary, some of the risk factors Dr. Harlander identified that impact greater feather damage in free run flocks included:

- Age (0.9% increase for each week of age)
- Flooring (37.6% increase for wire flooring—No longer allowed under the new Code of Practice to have all wire flooring)
- Manure removal (20.1% increase when manure removal is only done at the end of the flock)
- Enrichment (19.1% increase with enrichment provided—However, enrichment was only provided after feather damage was observed which may influence the results)

The document also provides detail on how to develop a scoring system for furnished/free run systems, what to look for when feather scoring, and a feather scoring guide which includes scoring sheets.

If you have questions about the information on feather cover in free run systems, please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or 403-250-1197 x. 125.

Stay tuned for further updates as the research journal pertaining to feather cover in free run systems becomes available!



Quota Leasing Pool Update

EFA sent a memo to all registered egg farmers on June 20, 2019, detailing changes to the Quota Leasing Pool. The memo has also been posted to the producer website, as a news update on the homepage.



The EFA Board has approved several changes that will be incorporated into the Quota Leasing Policy:

- Leases up to 15 months to accommodate production cycles beyond 12 months
- The QLP will run 2 times each year, with new allocation being divided between the pools
- Producers can now specify minimum thresholds upon application
- Payments will be made on a quarterly basis, on the 15th in February, May, August and November
- Any unused birds from the New Entrant Program pool will now be made available in the QLP
- GST will remain unchanged for the 2020 QLP, though the Board is investigating alternatives

EFA would like to thank all producers who completed the survey about the Quota Leasing Pool. A report summarizing the results of this survey can also be found on the producer website.

Upcoming events

July 23, Meeting of Western Provinces - Calgary

July 30, Research Committee Meeting - EFA Office

July 31, Research Committee - Priority Setting Session - Calgary

August 1, EFA Board Meeting - EFA Office

August 5, Heritage Day - Office Closed

August 12-14, EFC Board Meeting and Producer Conference, Yellowknife NWT



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Biosecurity Best Management Practices

As part of a Growing Forward 2 Project, the four feather Boards worked with experts to develop the resource, “Biosecurity Best Management Practices.” The resource shares information on topics that are particularly important to control the spread of pathogens and includes practical “how to” advice. The Field Service Coordinators, Dave and Murray, will be delivering the new booklets during their farm visits. An electronic version of the booklet has also been made available on the producer website.



If you have any questions regarding the Biosecurity Best Management Practices booklet please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or (403)-250-1197 x 125.

Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how egg farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far this year:

- 73 SC-SC Layer 1-2 evaluations have been completed in 2019
Alberta's average score: 99.52%
- 12 SC-SC Layer 3 evaluations have been completed in 2019
- 87 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2019
Alberta's average score: 99.84%
- 38 SC-SC Pullet 1-2 evaluations have been completed in 2019
Alberta's average score: 99.55%
- 8 SC-SC Pullet 3 evaluations have been completed in 2019

We'd like to thank farmers for their commitment and hard work each and every day to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.

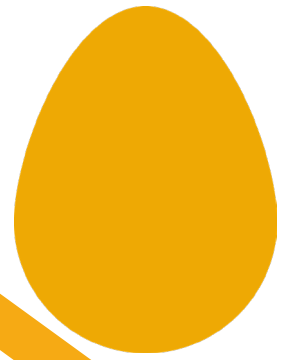
Farm Freedom and Safety Act (FFSA) Consultation

The Government of Alberta is looking to make changes to Employment Standards, Labour Relations, Workers Compensation, and the OH&S Act and Regulation.

An online survey is available <https://www.alberta.ca/farm-freedom-and-safety-engagement.aspx> where producers can provide input until the end of August.



Healthy Eggs



Qualifying for Enriched Pricing—A revision

In the March 10th, 2019 issue of EggNotes, EFA had an article about the requirements to qualify for enriched pricing. Egg Farmers of Canada has since clarified that only a portion of the final enriched colony standards will be required to qualify for enriched pricing, until all the standard can be verified (scheduled for late 2020 or 2021 with the launch of the new Animal Care Program). Therefore, the following requirements listed in the table below must be met, along with a Hen Housing Certificate to qualify for enriched pricing payment. This is in line with what was presented at the Regional Meetings in June.

Attribute	Final Enriched Colony Standards
Space Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 116.25in² of total space including nests, of which 93.0in² does not include nest boxes
Nesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 10in² of nest space area
Perching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 5.9in of useable, elevated perch space
Foraging and dust-bathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 4.8in² of a flooring surface for foraging
Feeders and Waterers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessible feed space must be provided at a minimum rate of 2.8 inches per birdAll birds must have access to a minimum of one waterer for every 12 birds

If you have any questions regarding your enriched housing system, qualifying for enriched pricing, or the requirements revision please contact Carley Frerichs at Carley.Frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or (403)-250-1197 x 125.

Pullets for sale
19 week date at July 25, 2019
White Babcock 200-300
Call Mark at Clearview Colony, 587-816-8244 ext 731
or email layer@cvfarming.com

