

EggNotes

Board of Director

Chair Beatrice Visser
780-674-6297

Vice Chair: John Hofer
403-641-2030

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser
403-653-4480

Director: Conrad Vanessen
403-635-7998

EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner
403-795-8621

Director: Bernadette Vandeborn
780-349-6311

EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal
ext: 124

Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
ext: 126

Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
ext: 103

Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
ext: 125

Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
ON MAT LEAVE

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
Business Systems Analyst: VACANT

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 open for regular hours

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: April 12, 2019

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



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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 Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow egg farmers, value chain partners and industry stakeholders from across the country, for making our 50th Annual General Meeting a resounding success. It was an engaging and entertaining AGM and banquet, with many thought-provoking speakers and memorable moments.

Another highlight was the live auction held during the banquet, which raised nearly \$8,000 for STARS! Thanks to all the winning bidders, whose generous donations will help this incredibly worthwhile cause. The Board would also like to thank the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, Kyla Arneson and ConventionALL Management, and the EFA staff for helping to make our 50th AGM one to remember!

The Board is pleased to have Beatrice Visser back for her second 3-year term, and welcomes Conrad Vanessen for his first 3-year term. On a bittersweet note, we would like to thank Susan Schafers for her service to the Board and the egg industry over the past 6 years. Susan's experience, expertise and passion will most definitely be missed!

EFA's 2019 Board of Directors:

Chair: Beatrice Visser

Vice-Chair: John Hofer

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser

EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner

Director: Bernadette Vandeborn

Director :Conrad Vanessen

The Board will review all motions that passed during the AGM's closed session in the coming months. We look forward to a successful and prosperous year ahead for the egg industry in Alberta and across Canada!



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Quota Leasing Pool

Due to the latest allocation, EFA reopened the 2019/2020 leasing pool so that those with capacity can access additional quota in the 2019/2020 timeframe. As this allocation was combined with the quota already put into the 2019/2020 leasing pool in the fall of 2018, there was more quota available to be leased. When the pool was reopened the initial dates of the pool were changed so that it runs from April 10, 2019 to February 14, 2020. This was done so that EFA can align the quota leasing pool with a December allocation date.

Due to high demand, there are no more leases available from the pool. Leases from the general leasing pool were satisfied at a rate of 93.556%. 97 producers leased to the pool and 65 leased from the pool. For all the stats, please check out the producer website.

Update on Regulatory Review

At the February 8, 2019, the EFA Board re-considered the proposed amendment to change the Amount of quota anyone person can hold, directly or indirectly from 7% to 5%. The Board reviewed these changes in the context that we are proceeding with the establishment of the Quota Exchange and determined that most of the concerns related to the CAP will be addressed once this is implemented.

Accordingly, the Board has decided to not proceed with amending the regulations to change the CAP from 7% to 5%.

In addition, the Board discussed the current Terms of Office for Directors. They decided to amend the Plan Regulation to increase the length of time a Board Director can serve from 6 years to 9 years which means that Directors will be permitted to serve three consecutive 3-year terms.

Finally, the Board discussed reporting requirements for grading stations (processors). Currently

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grading stations report total marketings for each producer to the Board on a weekly basis. EFC is requesting that Provinces report marketing data by type, housing system, egg type, color and grade-out. The current Regulations have a general requirement for graders to provide the Board with any information relating to production, processing or marketing of eggs that is specified in the request. There is also another section in our Regulation that describes the report of marketings. Legal counsel is recommending that this section be expanded to also include “such other information the Board may require”.

These items will be reviewed with graders during upcoming meetings and with producers and industry stakeholders at our upcoming June Regional Meetings.

Staff Update

March has brought with it several staffing changes at Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Christina Robinson, our Farm Programs Manager, will be leaving EFA towards the end of May, since she and her family have decided to move back to New Zealand permanently. Christina has brought enthusiasm and passion to EFA for the past 12 years, as a dedicated champion for Alberta’s egg farmers. Christina will be greatly missed! EFA has begun the process to find a new Farm Programs Manager and will update farmers once a replacement has been found.

Kelly Pow, EFA’s Business Systems Analyst & IT Project Coordinator for the past couple years has also decided to move on from EFA.

We are sad to say good-bye to Christina and Kelly!



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Healthy Birds



Ventilation Flock Talks: Light and Rain Traps

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. This article focuses on light and rain traps.

- A lot of chimney fans don't have blackouts in them to block light and this wrecks uniformity in the flock. It is likely not a good idea to have any chimney fans without light traps.
- Keep in mind blackouts will take over 10% of the fan capacity away and this needs to be considered:
 - A 1 metre spiral light trap removes 12% of fan capacity.
 - A block light trap might reduce airflow by up to 30% (whether in wall or chimney).
- It is important to keep light traps clean. Fibreglass ones will really collect dust and likely need to be cleaned several times per year. S-shaped ones require very frequently cleaning. The plastic ones are smooth and don't collect quite as much dust. The smoother the tube/spiral the better.
- When it rains a little bit of moisture helps the dust cling to the light trap – putting in a rain cap can help reduce cleaning and maintenance and also help by blocking the little bit of light that gets through the center of the light trap.
- Rain traps can decrease moisture that comes into barn.

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.



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Farewell Form 22s!

Egg Farmers of Alberta has reviewed our processes for managing inventory and have determined that there is no longer a need to have producers report monthly flock inventories via Form 22s.



This means that effective immediately, EFA will no longer require farmers to submit monthly flock inventories.

Maintaining an accurate inventory of bird numbers in the province is important, as provincially we need to monitor and ensure we are at or below 100% utilization of inventory as compared to our national quota allotment. Failure to keep our inventories at or below 100% quota utilization can lead to fines (liquidated damages) under the Federal Provincial Agreement (FPA).

Here is how EFA will manage inventories going forward:

- Permits from the hatchery show us the number of chicks delivered from the hatchery to pullet growers
- Flock Placement Permits are sent to layer farms with the number of birds expected to arrive on farm at 19 weeks of age
- EFA's Field Coordinators conduct a count soon after placement to confirm that bird numbers are as expected and compliant with the farm's total allowable placement
- EFA's Field Inspectors complete on farm counts when they are on farm completing farm program audits
- Our computer system automatically deducts standard mortality for flocks throughout the lay cycle
- EFA's Field Coordinators confirm the number of hens depopulated and the end of the flock cycle.

With all of these measures in place, EFA has the information we need to calculate accurate inventory numbers under normal circumstances.

There are some out of the ordinary situations that will require you to contact the office in order to maintain accurate inventory numbers. If you:

- experience high levels of mortality due to a disease challenge or other emergency situation
- have a disposal date for your flock that is more than 4 weeks before your next flock placement



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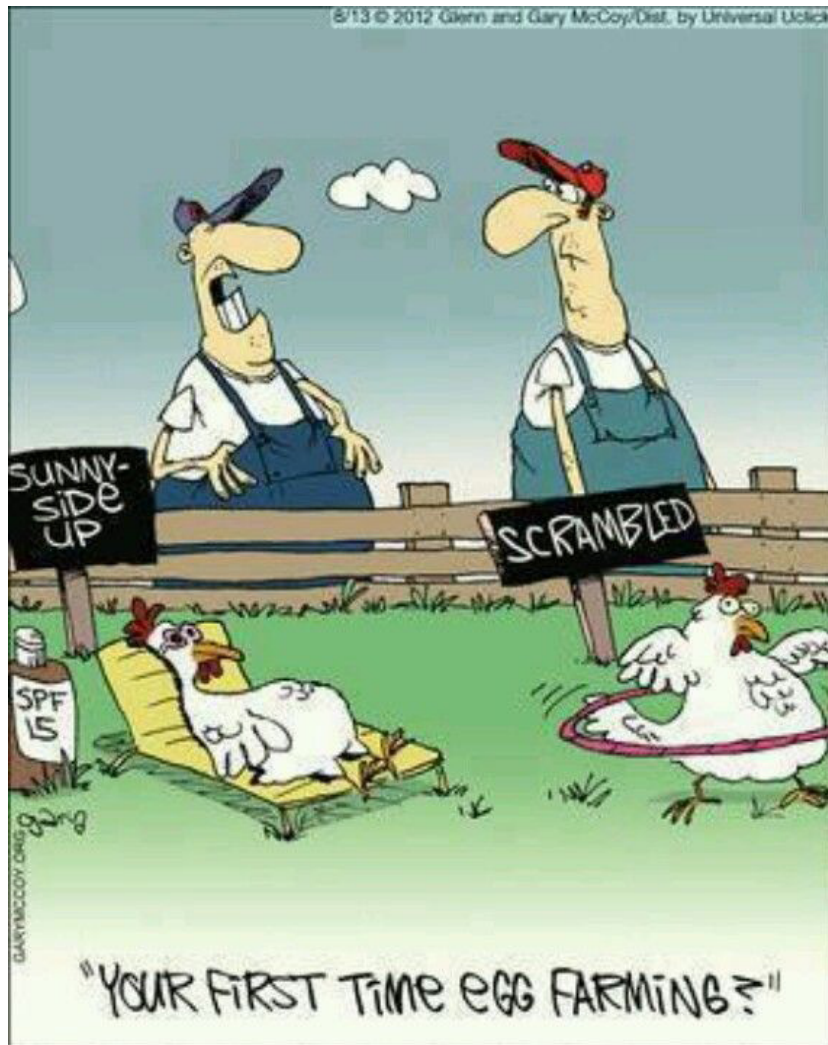


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Please contact Erin Johnston at the EFA office to report this information.

EFA will be removing Form 22 reporting from the Producer of the Year Award Criteria and the form will no longer be available on the producer website.

We trust that this change to our procedures will save time for both our farmers, and EFA staff, while still allowing us to maintain accurate inventory information.



Healthy Eggs

Maintaining Cooler Temperature – It's Critical!

Keeping your cooler temperature maintained between 10 to 13°C is now a Critical Control Element in your Start Clean – Stay Clean Program. Farmers that don't receive full points on this element will have 7 days to complete the corrective action or fail the SC-SC program. If you fail the SC-SC program, you will not meet the requirements for the National Egg Quality Assurance Program, which will result in your eggs being diverted for processing at a discount of 20 cents per dozen.

Cooler temperature is a critical control element because of how important it is in ensuring the food safety and quality of your eggs. Cooling eggs to this temperature after collection helps prevent cracks, keep eggs fresh and prevents the growth of organisms like Salmonella.

With the temperatures being extremely cold in recent weeks, we have seen a high number of farms receiving corrective actions for cooler temperature. We feel this is a good opportunity to provide a few tips to help you maintain your cooler temperatures:

- Ensure that your thermometer is placed in a location that gives an accurate reading of cooler temperature. For example, hang the thermometer in the middle of the cooler. Placing the thermometer on an exterior concrete wall, can impact the reading you get.
- When there are big shifts in temperature outside, it's a good idea to pay close attention to the temperatures in your cooler, ensuring they remain between 10 and 13°C. If temperatures are falling outside of this range, you may need to adjust the set point of the cooler thermometer by a degree or two. Be sure to watch your cooler temperatures closely after you make an adjustment to ensure they've had the effect you anticipated.
- Check all of the seals on your cooler doors, especially exterior doors. Even a small draft from outside during periods of extreme temperatures can have a significant impact on your cooler temperature.

If your cooler temperature has fallen outside of the 10°C and 13°C temperature range here is an outline of the steps to take to maintain your SC-SC records:

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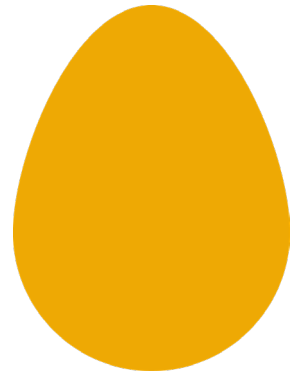


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1. Record the actual high low temperatures for your cooler
2. Assess your cooler, determine what steps you can take to fix the problem
3. Make a note in your corrective action log of the issue, and what was done to address it
4. Continue to log your cooler temperatures in your records. Ensure that the actions you have taken have fixed the problem, or whether further steps are required. If not, start again at step 1.



Thank-you for taking extra care during these extreme weather conditions to ensure that your eggs continue to be managed in a way that protects food safety!

Upcoming events

- EFC AGM & Elections – **March 20**
- AFAC Livestock Care Conference – **March 20-21**, Calgary
- PMC Meeting – **March 26**
- Egg Farmers of Ontario AGM – **March 26-27**
- Egg Ambassador Training – **March 27**, Calgary
- Egg Farmers of Quebec AGM – **April 2-3**
- CEIRA AGM – **April 17**
- Research Committee Meeting – **April 18**
- Good Friday (Office closed) – **April 19**
- EFA Board Meeting – **May 1**



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Healthy Farms



Recognizing Eggcellence!

We announced something eggciting at the AGM this year! EFA believes that we have eggceptional farmers in Alberta, and that we need to celebrate the daily effort that goes into making this possible. At the June regional meetings last year, we asked our farmers about the type of recognition program that would be meaningful to you. We took the results of this engagement to our Production Management Committee, and developed a recognition program for you – because we believe that you deserve a big thank-you for a job well done.

First, we are launching an Eggcellence club. All farmers that score 100% on the Animal care Program, 100% on the SC-SC Program and 90% or higher in the PEEP program for 2 or more years in a row, and are in good standing with the Board will be invited to a special event to congratulate those that have achieved this exceptional level of performance in their on farm programs. This event will be held around the time of next year's AGM, starting in 2020.

But that's not all – all farmers that meet the following requirements in 2019 will have their name entered into an Eggceptional Performance draw that will be made at next year's AGM. The winner will have their choice between 2 prizes, a trip to an industry related conference or meeting or a \$1,000 credit for equipment or supplies for the layer barn. To qualify for a draw entry farmers must meet the following requirements:

- Score 100% in the Animal care Program
- Score 100% in the SC-SC Program
- Score of at least 80% in the PEEP Program
- Have all Job Task Hazard Assessments complete
- Complete a Biosecurity Assessment, which is being delivered by our Field Coordinators this year.

Again, we thank-you all for your efforts in making this industry successful and strong, and look forward to celebrating our successes together.



Healthy Communities



Egg Ambassadors Save-the-Dates

Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to thank all those Egg Ambassadors who participated in the ask-an-egg-farmer FAQ video shoot at our recent AGM. More than a dozen egg farmers volunteered to provide authentic egg farmer answers to many of the most commonly asked consumer questions.

Although the first two workshops are behind us, it's not too late for you to come out to learn how you can become an Egg Ambassador. The third and final workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th in Calgary. Contact David Webb at the EFA office (x126) to RSVP.

There are many upcoming opportunities for Egg Ambassadors to get engaged and represent EFA and the provincial egg industry:

- April 3-7 - Aggie Days Calgary
- April 10-11 - Aggie Days Lethbridge
- April 30 – May 2 - Amazing Agriculture (Edmonton)
- May 14 - In-store appearances at Save-on Foods

Please contact Angie Lang at the EFA office (x103) to volunteer for any of these upcoming events or learn more about how you can get involved.



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