

EggNotes

Board of Director

Chair & EFC Alternate: Beatrice Visser
780-674-6297

Vice Chair: Susan Schafers
780-722-3238

EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser
403-653-4480

Director: John Hofer
403-641-2030

Director: 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
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
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 open for regular hours in
November

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: December 14, 2018

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



EFA Board Update

Over the last few months, there have been questions from producers about the nationally developed service fee. The Board felt it is important for everyone to understand the rationale behind the Service Fee and Alberta's current position. The Service Fee program was developed in 2014 in response to the increasing demands of the Canadian table and industrial markets. As well, Farm Products Council of Canada indicated that any new measures would need to avoid, as far as possible, increases in table egg quota allocations that would result in increases in consumer levies used to fund the Industrial Products Program and that new allocations would likely be refused in the absence of such measures.

The Service Fee as it exists now is paid on a per-bird basis on new allocations for a period of 5 years. The purpose for the 5 year time frame is that by that time, the production is absorbed into the system and does not produce additional surplus. The rates are reviewed on an annual basis, and the entire Service Fee Program is reviewed every four years.

Alberta was opposed to the Service Fee Program from the very beginning, as we believe it is contrary to the current Federal Provincial Agreement. This fundamental agreement lays out the major pillars of supply management, one of which is that the cost of removing all eggs in excess of the demand for table eggs be covered through a levy that is recoverable in our COP.

Over the last five years, EFA directors have worked tirelessly to come up with a solution that treats all provinces fairly, including Alberta. In order to demonstrate good faith, in 2016 Alberta agreed to pay the pro-rata portion of the Service Fee. There continues to be significant pressure from our provincial and national counterparts to pay the Service Fee in full. At the most recent EFC Board meeting, a change to the current QAC policy was proposed whereby provinces who are not paying the full Service Fee will have their quota allocation adjusted pro rata for any unpaid portions of the Service Fee. This is extremely concerning for your Board of Directors and a letter of opposition has been sent to EFC about the process, as well as questioning the legality of such a change.

Your Board will continue to work on your behalf for a fair and equitable solution. If you would like to discuss further, please call the directors.



EggFarmersAlberta



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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to September 15, 2018, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.16 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.5% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending August 18st), and a 5.1% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2017.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.0% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 41.4 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3) have seen the largest sales growth; a 6.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.6 million dozen eggs (8.6% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

Field Statistics Update

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

117 SC-SC Layer evaluations have been completed in 2018

- Alberta's average score: 99.52%
- 86 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

136 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2018

- Alberta's average score: 99.9%
- 123 facilities have received a rating of 100%

74 SC-SC Pullet evaluations have been completed in 2018

- Alberta's average score: 99.51%
- 56 Alberta Pullet Growers have scored a perfect 100% rating

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



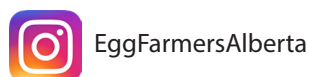
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Egg Farmers of Alberta



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Healthy Eggs

Starting January 1, 2019 Purchasing Pullets from an Accredited Grower is Mandatory

When you order your pullets, be sure to ask if your grower is accredited in the SC-SC Pullet program and has had an assessment in the past 12 months. As of January 1, 2019 it is mandatory for all egg farmers to source their pullets from an accredited grower – whether you grow them yourself or purchase from someone else.

This policy was developed in 2017 following consultation with our farmers and ensures that the pullets placed into Alberta's layer barns are raised following industry's standards for biosecurity, pest management and cleanliness in support of raising healthy, disease free birds.

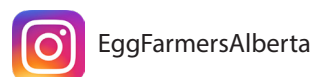
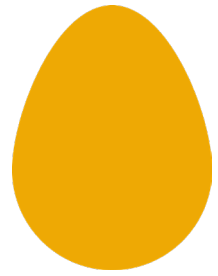
Alberta's pullet growers have been making excellent progress in achieving accreditation and we are on track for 100% accreditation by the end of the year! With that being said, it is the responsibility of the egg manager to check with your pullet provider, including those from out of province, and ensure their accreditation status is noted on the Flock History Certificate.

After January 1, 2019, when the EFA Field Coordinator is on farm to count your new flock, they will verify that pullets were brought in from an accredited pullet grower based on the Pullet Flock History Certificate or a copy of the SC-SC accreditation certificate or audit (for those producers who grow their own birds).

If the egg farmer can provide no evidence that their flock has been sourced from a pullet grower accredited in the SC-SC program, a provincial corrective action will be issued. The egg farmer will have until their next flock is counted to obtain documentation that confirms their birds have been sourced from an accredited pullet grower.

If, when the EFA Field Coordinator is on farm to count the subsequent flock, no evidence is available to show that the flock has been sourced from a pullet grower accredited in the SC-SC program, the layer producer will be fined \$500.00. These funds will be returned to the layer producer once they provide evidence to EFA that their layer flock has been sourced from an accredited pullet grower.

We believe that each of our farms will be able to meet the mandatory SC-SC Pullet accreditation requirement before the January 1st deadline. If you have any questions about the upcoming requirement, please contact Christina Robinson.



Healthy Birds



Exploring Feather Cover in Montana

When we heard that egg farmers in Montana were maintaining excellent feather cover in their brown, free run flocks, we were interested. In October a small group of EFA staff and free run producers from EFA's Production Management and Research Committees travelled down to Big Sky Colony to see what we could learn.

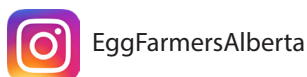
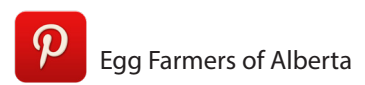
Big Sky Colony raises their 30,000 organic hens in a Vencomatic Bolegg Terrace aviary. Under the American Organic standards, they are required to provide 1.2 ft² of floor space for the hen inside, and 2ft² of outdoor space when the weather permits. Pullets are raised on farm in a complimentary "Jump Start" training system, also from Vencomatic.

The egg manager at Big Sky, Mike, shared that he had been the egg manager for 22 years. When they moved from conventional housing to the free run system he said that he had to throw out everything he knew before and re-learn it. The difference in his management style became more clear when he told us "cage birds you control, free run birds control you."

Here are the highlights from our observations and the many, many questions we asked of Big Sky's Egg Manager:

- He brings some litter from the pullet barn to the layer barn to help birds adjust to the new barn. This aligns with recommendations from research that say the pullet and layer barns should be as similar as possible. In the layer barn, they clean out litter from the alleys with a quad every 4 weeks to prevent it from getting too deep. There is a thin layer left behind so the floor is never bare.
- The barn temperature is maintained at 20 degrees Celsius. He believes maintaining the barn at this temperature is a contributing factor for good feather cover and that it helps to manage ammonia levels.
- We noticed that most birds were up in the system during our visit, which could be a factor impacting feather cover as most pecking and aggression has been shown to happen at the floor level. Fewer birds on the floor could be a result of their feeding or lighting schedule.

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Big Sky has opted to feed their hens 4 times per day according to the following schedule:

- 3:30am – lights go on and 5 minutes later 1st feeding takes place
 - 10:00am – 2nd feeding
 - 1:00pm – 3rd feeding
 - 3:30pm – 4th feeding
 - 6:30pm lights go out
- Their hens are provided with 16 hours of light with dawn and dusk simulations. They keep their lights at 100% intensity until the flock is about 55 weeks of age and they start to see the first feather pecking behaviours. At this time, they begin to reduce light intensity slowly – close to the end of lay lighting is at minimum allowable levels for the flock. It was interesting to note that red lights are not allowable under the American Humane standard as they deviate too far from “natural” lighting.



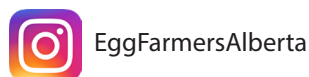
77 week old layers from Big Sky Colony showing excellent feather cover

- They were able to reduce flickering with their lights (which can cause behavioral issues) by disconnecting a computer port in their dimmer. One suggestion Mike had to see if there is any unobserved flickering that the birds might be picking up is to film the lights in slow motion and then play it back.

Big Sky is feeding a barley, soy, and corn diet. As salt and protein levels may have an impact of feather pecking, Big Sky provided us with a break down of their diet as follows:

- Crude Protein: 18.32%

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- Fat 3.11%
- Total Sodium 0.15%
- Lysine Total 0.92%
- Methionine Total 0.38%

It is important to note that nutrient levels need to be tailored for each individual farm and can vary depending on bird strain, housing system, hen behavior and more. Work with a nutritionist to find the best balance for your flock!



It is interesting to note that bird weight at placement (ex. underweight birds) may be a contributing factor to aggressive feather pecking.

In the end, the visit uncovered some useful strategies to pass on to our farmers for managing feather cover however, it also confirmed that feather cover is a complex problem with many factors and many possible management strategies. Rather than a magic bullet, the advice to observe the behavior of your birds, monitor feather cover for early detection, and to make and record small management changes remains the best approach.

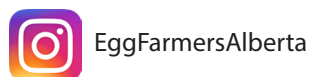
Access to Antimicrobials

As of December 1st, 2018, all Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIAs) for veterinary use will be sold by prescription only. Authorized Medicines Sales Outlets (AMSOs) will no longer be able to dispense prescription antimicrobials, as prescription products must be purchased from a veterinary practice entity (VPE) or pharmacy.

Over the past several months Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA), in collaboration with the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG), has been actively engaged with stakeholders to bring clarity to federal antimicrobial policy changes. Livestock industries recognize the importance of using MIAs responsibly to minimize the development of antimicrobial resistance. However, it is important that we understand how restricted distribution channels will impact the industry and farmers. We have been working to identify any potential unintended consequences or farmer challenges resulting from these changes, and to develop strategies that will be mutually beneficial for all stakeholders.

As this is new legislation, some of the impacts to producers and the livestock industry remain uncertain. Accordingly, we are asking farmers who experience problems related to access or pricing of antimicrobials after December 1st to please call the EFA office and report their experiences. This will allow us to document the impact of the legislation and provide meaningful policy advice back to the provincial government to help address any unintended consequences.

Producers with questions or concerns should contact Christina Robinson.



Healthy Farms



USMCA Trade Update

On September 30, 2018, the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) was concluded, as a potential replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has facilitated free trade between the three nations since 1994. While additional time, analysis and clarification is required to fully understand the potential impact of USMCA, there is concern that it will have a negative impact on the Canadian system of supply management, and the viability of the Canadian egg industry.

After an initial review, it appears as though the USMCA will grant additional access to the domestic egg market in the amount of 11.05 million dozen eggs per year, at the end of a 16 year implementation period. Once fully implemented, and when combined with the additional access granted under the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the access already granted via World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, the total foreign access to Canada's domestic egg industry will be 51.4 million dozen eggs. This total access represents approximately 7% of current domestic production.

EFA will provide further analyses and additional details with Alberta egg farmers, as they become available. Trade updates and related industry information can be found on the producer website.

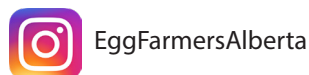


Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program

Alberta Agriculture has opened this grant to help eligible agriculture employers comply with new occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements and offset some of the costs employers may incur in complying with OHS regulations. Program details are as follows:

- Only farms with waged, non-family workers and a WCB account may apply for the grant.
- Applications open Oct. 15, 2018 and the program runs until March 2021.
- The grant covers up to 50 per cent of eligible safety expenses to a maximum of \$5,000 per year or \$10,000 over the life of the program per eligible applicant.

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- Expenses going back to Jan. 1, 2018 are eligible under the program.



Eligible expenses include things like:

- First aid kits, fire extinguishers and warning signage.
- Respirators, eye and hearing protection.
- Health and safety programs, courses, education, training and consultant fees.
- Seatbelt installation, warning lights and auger guards to improve equipment safety

For more information or to apply please visit: agriculture.alberta.ca/farmhsgrant

Classified

Crown Electric Pallet Jack for sale and Hurricane XTT floor scrubber.
Call Teddy for more information
403-752-4176 ext 713

Upcoming events

- EFC Meetings - **November 6-7**, Ottawa
- Flock Talk – Ventilation – **November 7**, Calgary
- Flock Talk – Ventilation – **November 14**, Edmonton
- CCFI Public Trust Summit – **November 14-15**, Gatineau Quebec
- EFA Board Meeting – **December 13-14**, Calgary

