

EggNotes

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Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
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Business Manager: Kari Buijs
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Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka
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Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow
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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 October

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: November 9, 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

The Board of Directors, along with the key staff members, met for their annual strategic planning session. It was a very engaging and productive time, with all participants openly sharing their thoughts and views.

The session began with a discussion on how to build on the foundation of trust that exists between the board, general manager, staff, producers and industry partners. We re-confirmed that the vision of EFA is “Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families”. We also talked about the ultimate purpose for Egg Farmers of Alberta to ensure that the industry remains viable and sustainable in the long-term using a collaborative approach.

Recognizing trends and patterns and their potential effects for our industry is one way that we can do that. Our programs and policies are developed so that farmers and their farms can continue to operate and thrive in an environment where consumers, special interest groups and corporate organizations have more questions than ever about how eggs are produced.

What was very evident by the end of day was the passion that the directors AND the staff share for our industry and how we want it to succeed. We want to invite producers to share their own passion, questions and concerns by contacting their board of directors.



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HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Alternative Markets for On-farm Program Failures

In July, Egg Farmers of Canada announced the launch of the national Egg Quality Assurance (EQA) program. The EQA mark, which will start appearing on egg cartons in 2019, certifies to Canadians in a very visible way that our eggs are safe, healthy and produced according to strict food safety and animal welfare standards. The Start Clean- Stay Clean™ and Animal Care Programs are pillars of the EQA and demonstrate our commitment that Canadian eggs are produced in a safe and clean environment and that animal welfare is a top priority for our farmers.

During the development of the EQA program, the project team emphasized the need to ensure that eggs from farms failing the SC-SC or Animal Care program should not compromise the program or the trust Canadians have in our eggs. The resulting procedure, “Alternative Markets for On-Farm Program Failures”, was approved by the Egg Farmers of Canada Board and comes into effect February 1, 2019. This procedure provides clarity on what will happen if farms fail to meet the on-farm program requirements:

In the event of a Start Clean – Stay Clean™ program failure:

1. Eggs are sent to processing and discounted by 20 cents per dozen.
2. Once the farm’s corrective action requests (CARs) have been successfully closed and approved by EFC, the eggs will be redirected to the table market

In order to pass the SC-SC Program farmers must achieve a minimum score of 90% AND receive full points for critical control elements. If full points for critical control elements are not received, the farm will have 7 days to complete the associated corrective action request or fail the program.

In the event of an **Animal Care Program** Failure:

1. Eggs from the farm will be sent to an alternative, non-human consumption market if available, otherwise the eggs will be destroyed. In either case, the farmer will receive the market price relative to the salvage value.
2. A disposal fee may be added at the discretion of the egg Boards.

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3. The eggs may be held on farm for up to 3 weeks to allow time for the issue to be resolved before sending to an alternative market. If the issue is resolved in this period, the eggs held on-farm will be able to be directed to normal markets.



In order to pass the Animal Care Program, farmers must achieve a minimum score of 90% and receive full points for critical care elements. If full points for critical care elements are not received, the farm will have 30 days to complete the associated corrective action request. If CARs are not resolved within the set timelines, the farmer will fail the program.

Egg Farmers of Alberta is updating the On Farm Food Safety and Animal Care policies to align with this national procedure. We anticipate that these changes will not create an issue for our farmers as all our farms are passing these programs and we will continue to support our farmers in addressing corrective actions identified during on farm audits.

If you are interested in learning more about the EQA program, please visit the new EQA page on the Producer Website, [click here](#)

Upcoming Events

- October 15-18** – CPEPC – Hyatt Regency, Calgary
- October 16** – Farm Safety Committee Meeting – Board office
- October 29** – EFA Board meeting – Board office
- October 30** – EIAC Meeting – Calgary
- October 31** – Colony Elders Meeting – Board office
- November 1** – Research Committee - Board office
- November 7** - Ventilation Flock Talk – Calgary
- November 8** - Ventilation Flock Talk – Lethbridge



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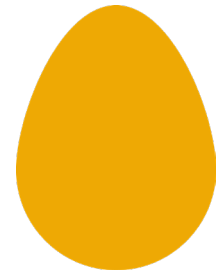


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Healthy Eggs



SC-SC Update for On-Farm Feed Mills

Egg Farmers of Canada has approved a change to the On-Farm Feed Mill section of the Start Clean-Stay Clean™ program that will come into effect on January 10, 2019. The changes clarify what is required for on farm feed mills and allows auditors to review written documentation in lieu of an on-site feed mill inspection.

The on-farm feed mill section of the SC-SC program is worth 12 points with specific elements related to an on-site feed mill inspection. With the updates to the element, all points will be given equivalency if the following requirements are met:

- If the on-farm feed mill is managed by the egg manager:
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), are available relating to: Cleaning & Sanitation, Pest Control, Biosecurity, Equipment, and Medicated Feed (examination of producer written SOPs is in lieu of the auditor performing an on-site inspection)
 - Letter of Certification from Feed Ingredients Supplier is provided
- If the on-farm feed mill is managed separately:
 - Letter of Certification from feed mill manager or company is provided
 - Pharmaceutical record (if any pharmaceuticals are used) is available
- If the on-farm feed mill has been inspected within the past 3 years by CFIA/CQA or an Organic Standards Certification body:
 - Proof of Inspection (Inspection report, certificate of inspection or equivalent) is provided

For farms where the on-farm feed mill is managed by the egg manager, detail is available below on what the Standard Operating Procedures need to detail.

Cleaning & Sanitation:

Feed mill establishments should have an adequate sanitation program in place to monitor and control the risk of cross contamination. This program should be carried out in a manner that does not contaminate finished feed or feed ingredients during or subsequent to cleaning and sanitizing.

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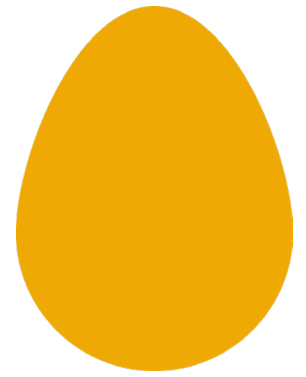


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- Record a description of cleaning activities performed including frequency, specific tasks and detergents/disinfectants used (if any)
- Activities performed must ensure that an adequate level of hygiene is maintained.
 - Mill kept in good repair and clean
 - Receiving and/or storage area cleaned regularly
 - Mixing and conveying systems closed and free of residue buildup
 - Spilled feed and/or ingredients cleaned up immediately



Pest Control:

An adequate integrated pest management program must be followed to prevent and reduce biological contamination of the establishment. Pests include rodents, flies and wild birds.

- Record a description of method of pest control being used along with frequency of activities.
 - Exterior areas should be kept free from debris and vegetation to act as a natural barrier to pests. Depending on the target pest to be controlled, traps, bait stations, black lights, screening or a combination thereof may be used. A service provider may also be contracted.

Biosecurity:

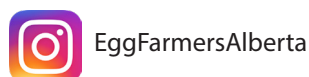
The establishment should be protected by implementing the necessary protocols and barriers to reduce, prevent or eliminate harmful pathogens that may cause contamination of finished feed and/or feed ingredients.

- Record a description of biosecurity protocols utilized.
- It is highly recommended that protocols include the following:
 - Restricted area indicated by signage
 - Change of boots required before entering storage and processing area (foot baths or disinfectant mats be used in place of boot change)
 - Entrances should be kept locked to prevent unauthorized access

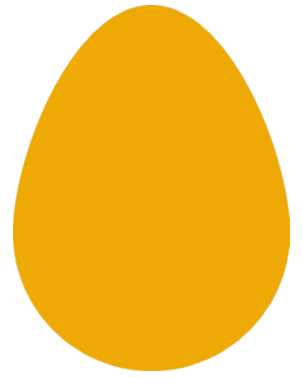
Equipment:

All scales and metering devices used in the making of feed must be appropriate for the range of weights or volumes to be measured, and must be calibrated and maintained properly to avoid errors in measurement of feed ingredients and/or medications.

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- Record a description of the procedure followed to ensure that the scales and metering devices used have a sensitivity suitable for their intended purpose, along with the frequency of said procedure.
 - Calibration methods may include the use of certified reference weights, a visit from an external calibration technician or test weights of actual product as measured on a secondary scale.
 - “What is a metering device?” A metering device is the incremental dial that controls product flow to the mill.



Medicated Feed:

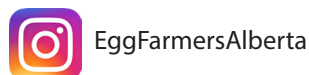
Use of medicated feed on farm must meet the standards set out in the Federal Feed Acts and Regulations as well as CFIA’s Compendium of Medicated Ingredients Brochure. It is highly recommended to seek the advice of a veterinary professional. Medications should only be used in accordance with veterinary prescriptions and/or manufacturer’s label.

- Record a description of procedures followed respecting sequential production, flushing and cleaning of equipment used.
- Record a description of how medications are handled and stored.
- Record medications used in ‘Pharmaceutical Record’.
 - If adding medications, read the label to determine proper dosage and expiry dates.
 - Medications should be stored away from finished feed and feed ingredients. Unused portions should be discarded in accordance with Provincial and Municipal Guidelines.
 - “What do I do if an overdose or error in medication is discovered?”
 1. Determine if feed has been consumed by laying hens
 2. Dispose of contaminated feed in accordance with Provincial Regulatory Guidelines
 3. Reference GMP 6.6.1 Notification Protocol

New on the producer portal

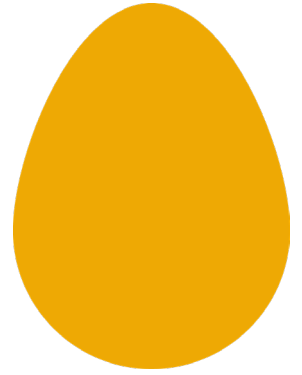
Four documents have been added:

- Hen housing statistics in Alberta
- Demand for specialty eggs
- Summary of Marketings, Imports, IP and exports
- Quota Leasing pool statistics



Check your Cooler Temperatures

As of August 15, 2018 critical control elements were introduced to the SC-SC Layer program. Since this date, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of Corrective Actions Requests (CARs) issued for cooler temperature being maintained between 10°C to 13°C.



We would like to ask all of our farmers to check their cooler temperatures and ensure they are being maintained within the range of 10°C to 13°C. Cooling eggs to this temperature after collection helps keep eggs fresh and prevents the growth of organisms like Salmonella.

Keep in mind that when there are big shifts in temperature outside, it's a good idea to check that the temperatures in your cooler continue to be 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.

Corrective actions issued for critical control elements – including cooler temperatures outside of 10 and 13°C - trigger the following actions:

1. There will be an immediate 7 day hold of the SC-SC™ part 1 and 2 evaluation.
2. A corrective action request (CAR) will be issued with a 7 day deadline to complete.
3. If the CAR is not corrected within 7 days, the result will be an immediate failure of the SC-SC program.
4. If you fail the SC-SC program, you will not meet the requirements for the National Egg Quality Assurance Program, which can impact the market for your eggs.

Thank-you for taking the time to check your cooler temperatures and doing your part to safeguard food safety and demonstrate excellence in the SC-SC program!



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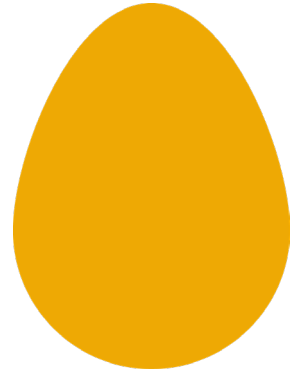
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Feed Safety Management and Certification

Producers may have heard of “FeedAssure.” FeedAssure® is a comprehensive feed safety management and certification program developed by the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC) for the Canadian feed industry in 1999. It is a customized full HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) program of processes and controls that bring the highest safety standards to feed production.



While a letter of Certification on Good Manufacturing Practices is all that is required under SC-SC, certification under the FeedAssure program carries the weight of third party verification that safety controls are effective and are being followed. To maintain their certification, FeedAssure members undergo annual audits by an independent, internationally recognized firm. Purchasing from a feed mill that is certified FeedAssure demonstrates to you that your feed supplier has systems in place to manage the risks in the feed manufacturing process that are associated with human food safety.

Close to 170 feed mills and related facilities are HACCP-certified under the FeedAssure program. These facilities collectively represent an estimated 70 percent of commercial feed production in Canada

Clarifying Ammonia Test Requirements

If you have a production facility with 2 separate rooms to house your laying hens, the SC-SC program requires that you record ammonia in both rooms from October to March. Please note that for those farms that have not been recording ammonia in both rooms, these records must be maintained in both rooms for 2 years, showing no issues of ammonia levels going over 25ppm, before you can be exempt from measuring under the Ammonia Exception Rule. This history is required in your records for verification purposes – so that you can prove that you have taken the necessary steps to provide a healthy environment for your birds.



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Healthy Birds



Euthanasia Training Update for the Animal Care Program

Egg Farmers of Canada has announced a postponement of the Stage 2 euthanasia training requirements that were scheduled to come into effect February 2019. The Animal Care Program is currently under review to align the program with the 2017 Code of Practice. The new Code contains several new euthanasia requirements, which may best be accessed through training. Until it is determined what euthanasia training needs to incorporate to meet the Code and revised Animal Care Program requirements, the Stage 2 requirement is on hold.

Here is a reminder of what the Animal Care Program requires for Euthanasia training. The requirements were rolled out in 2 stages to allow time for training to take place:

- Stage 1 required that as of February 22, 2016:
 - Any kind of training will be accepted that has been approved and or supported by the Provincial Board (ie EFA's training video, printed training resources or workshop)
 - At least one person must have been trained and will train all others on the farm who will perform euthanasia. Training must be documented.
- Stage 2 requires that by February 22, 2019:
 - At least one person on each farm has been certified to perform euthanasia by a certified trainer and must have demonstrated competency.
 - The certified person on the farm can then train other employees

EFA provided euthanasia workshops in early 2015 that provided many of our farmers with training certificates. We were planning to offer additional workshops in the Fall of 2018 to provide an opportunity for new Egg Managers to be trained however, this training has been delayed until the new training requirements are clarified.

EFA will continue to keep our farmers updated on the euthanasia training requirements and will schedule workshops to help our farmers meet the training requirements prior to Stage 2 becoming effective.



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Feather Cover Monitoring

In 2018, Egg Farmers of Alberta introduced Feather Cover Monitoring as a new flock management tool in the on farm program record keeping book. Feather cover is important for many reasons: it is linked to the overall perception of bird welfare, it can impact bird's feed consumption, temperature regulation, and their ability to protect themselves from injury. By monitoring feather cover in your flock, you can identify changes or issues early, which can aid you in understanding possible causes of the problem and in turn, potential solutions. Monitoring over time will also help you better understand the impacts of any measures you take to manage feather cover issues in your flocks.

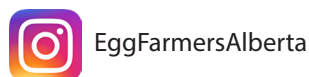


We connected with two of our farmers that have used the Feather Cover monitoring records this year and asked them to share some of what they learned from their monitoring.

One farmer, producing eggs in a conventional cage system monitored and recorded his birds feather cover score early this year. When he started writing down the numbers, he became concerned by what he was seeing and decided to look into the issue more closely. He spent time observing his hens in the barn and didn't see any signs of aggressive feather pecking in his flock at all, which was a relief. What he did notice was the feather loss his birds were experiencing was due to repeated contact with the cage walls and on feed trough. In monitoring his flocks for feather cover he learned a lot about his flock and his housing system. He told us that what he learned will impact his decisions about equipment design when it comes time to replace his current conventional cages.

The second farmer we spoke to has actually been measuring feather cover in his flocks for a few years now. He says he's learned a lot from the recording this information on each flock and is able to monitor the impact of changes he's made to his management to improve feather cover. Many of the adjustments he's made have been based on recommendations from his nutritionist that he works with on a regular basis. He tells us that overall, the feather cover scores he sees throughout the life of his flocks now is much better than what he saw when he started recording feather scores.

EFA is going to continue to make feather cover monitoring available for our farmers in your record keeping books – we hope that more and more farmers will find these records to be a helpful management tool. In 2019 we will be adding one more bird based measure to the records available for you to use and are excited to tell you more in the December issue of Eggnotes!



Healthy Farms



CEIRA offers Coverage for Specialty Production

CEIRA has been busy making changes to enhance their coverage for farmers in the egg industry.

As of January 1, 2018, coverage for specialty production including free run, free range and organic, was provided for one year at no charge. Starting January 1, 2019 Specialty production coverage will be available with a paid premium. This coverage is optional for farmers with free run, free range and organic production.

Subscribers will be required to pay the supplemental premium for enhanced specialty coverage. The supplemental premium is paid directly by the subscriber to CEIRA and is not collected by hatcheries.

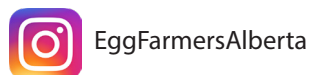
Each Fall, Egg Farmers of Alberta will provide CEIRA with a list of farms with specialty production and their production numbers for the following year. CEIRA will send an invoice to those farmers for specialty production coverage. If the invoice is paid (by Cheque to CEIRA) by December 31, the farm is confirmed to have specialty production coverage. If the invoice for specialty production coverage is not paid by December 31st, the farmer has NOT opted into the specialty coverage and conventional, caged-white coverage applies to the specialty production flock for the entire production year.

The subscriber's charge for specialty production coverage is as follows:

- Free Runbase premium + 2 cents;
- Free Rangebase premium + 4 cents;
- Organicbase premium + 6 cents.

If you produce free run, free range, or organic eggs, expect to see your invoice in the next 6-8 weeks. If you have questions about this coverage option, you can contact CEIRA directly at info@ceira.ca or 1-877-628-9564.

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CEIRA also launched coverage for Avian Influenza (AI) in September. Coverage for AI is automatic for existing subscribers and combined with existing SE coverage. As of September 17, 2018, the subscriber's charge increased by three cents to a total of 28.5 cents per bird. The subscriber's charge and the administration fee are included on all hatchery invoices when the day old chicks are sold and are applied to all domestic chick sales.



Farm Energy and Agri-Processing (FEAP) Program

The FEAP Program cost shares on energy efficiency investments. The Program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation, and ultimately, reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The Program offers financial support to applicants who incorporate high efficiency equipment that is identified in the applicable Funding List in their construction and/or retrofitting projects.

- The producer FEAP program has a \$13.5 M budget for 2018-2019
- The program has received over 670 applications to date
- There is currently over \$2.5M still available until March 2019 and another \$13.5 M for next fiscal year.

For more information:

Email: AF.FEAP@gov.ab.ca

Web: <https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/All/pgmsrv462>

Phone: 310-FARM

Solar PV Program

- The Solar PV program has a \$3.5 M budget for 2018-19
- The program has received over 68 applications to date
- The program has approved less than \$2M in applications, so there is over \$1.5M still to allocate, and another \$3.5 M next fiscal year.

For more information:

Email: af.farmsolarpvprogram@gov.ab.ca

Web: <https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv464>

Phone: 310-FARM



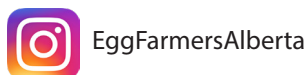
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Quota Allotment Policy Update

The EFA Board of Directors has been working to finalize the Quota Allotment Policy, that will allow the transfer of quota from over base to base, since Marketing Council approved the Quota Governance and Management Principles in 2017. More recently, the Board reviewed results of the survey distributed to registered producers in July.

Overall, there is strong support for the policy, but there are some concerns about the ongoing fee associated with newly purchased and newly allocated quota.



The Board has put together a report that summarizes the key points that were raised in the survey, along with the Board's response and/or actions taken by EFA related to each question/concern. The next steps are for the Board's regulation amendment to be passed, and for the Board to develop a plan to implement the policy.

If any Alberta egg farmer would like to review the survey results in more detail, or view a report of how over base quota fees were spent over the past 4 years, the reports are available on EFA's producer website on the All About Quota Page.

Healthy Communities

Customer Service Survey Results

EFA conducted its annual Customer Service Survey back in July, asking registered producers and industry partners to participate, in order to help ensure EFA continues meeting the needs of our customers. EFA would like to thank the 24 stakeholders who returned completed surveys, and we look forward to even greater participation in the future.



Overall, the scores were quite encouraging. Respondents also provided a lot of useful feedback and suggestions that EFA will take into consideration for improving our customer service, communication and engagement.

If any Alberta egg farmer would like to review the survey results in more detail, as well as actions already taken by EFA, a summary report is available on EFA's producer website.



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403-752-4176 ext 713

